

WORDS OF THANKS FROM OUR TROOPS

I would like to take the time to thank you for your groups support in our Operation Enduring Freedom it is very much appreciated. The packages send more than just candy stuffed animals and letters. They send joy to our sailors, soldier and airmen out here, it gives us that feeling of pride in what we do no matter how hard the job. Because of people like you and your group we want to go the extra mile in the fight. I cannot explain the feeling that is givin out when we receive these packages alls i can tell you is that no matter what is going on at that moment, its like your problems disapate briefly. thank you again, **CS3 Tudor, Charles W.**

Hello,

I am Staff Sergeant Herrera, I am a Platoon Sergeant for one of the platoons from within the 3-43 ADA family. I say family because that is exactly what we are while we continue to serve in the Army. Now as we are currently deployed, we have continued to grow stronger and stronger as a family. We look out for each other on a daily basis. Our families back home also help one another as well. Now, like any family we do get on each other's nerves from time to time. However, when we receive uplifting packages and letters from people we do not know believe it or not, this seeming less action to that others might see as a waste of time, always cheers us all up and brings us back to why we volunteered to serve our great nation. Not only do your packages of goodies taste great in our tummies, but for a few minutes they give us that feeling of being back home sharing a snack with our families as well. So again, thank you all for the snacks, letters, and the love with a touch of kindness that you all have blessed us with. On behalf of the 3-43 ADA family, we extend our arms in welcoming you all as part of our family as well. I will end this email with a loud and thunderous United States Army war cry....HOOAH!!!!!!!!!!!!

SSG Jesus Herrera "We go in together, we come out together, or we don't come out at all!"

My team received the care package from you today. We have Airmen & Soldiers here and I passed out the snacks and supplies. Thanks for taking the time to think of others and sending out the package as we truly appreciate it. I've attached a pic of my airmen that work for me here in Afghanistan. Take Care & thanks again...**TODD SEALEY, Capt, USAF**

I wish I had more time to write but I just wanted to say thank you for the care package we received in the mail today. It is getting hot now and we are slowly but surely getting better support. My dog is still trying to find Bin Laden and give him a bite. Hope all is well back in MA. GO CELTICS. **SSG Daniel Konrardy**

Hello Debbie this is Cody Watson with C/38 over in Iraq and i just wanted to say thank you so much for the package I received! I very much appreciate the time and energy you spent on that it means a lot! Thank you very much.
Sincerely, **Cody Watson**

Hello Debbie and Lisa

First I want to say thank you for choosing my soldiers and myself as platoon that you would like to sponsor during our deployment here in Afghanistan. First let me introduce myself to you. I am 1LT. Andre' M. Richards am originally from Cambria Heights (Queens) NY and I was transferred (or voluntold as we say in the Army) to this unit and mobilized with them and then got deployed. I was enlisted for 6 and half years before I got commissioned as an officer. I am a Signal Officer and I command 53 soldiers in a signal platoon and all of these soldiers are on smaller teams providing communications service for coalition forces all over eastern, western, southern and northern Afghanistan.

Though A Company 392nd ESB (Expeditionary Signal Battalion) is located in Blackstone, VA the soldiers that are here on this deployment range from many different states to include NY,NJ,PA,MA,VA,NC,SC,GA,FL,TX,AZ,CA and we also have some soldiers from the great state of Hawaii here with us that makes it a more memorable experience due to the diversity of people that we have here.

Though the snacks and goodies might have not seem like a lot to you when you decided to send

them it was a great moral booster for my soldiers when they receive the contents of your package there was a lot of smiles and excitement due to the fact that we cannot just go to the local store here and get some of these goodies and if we can as soon as the PX here get such items they come off the shelf like water before a hurricane and as few was yearning for some of the items in the box so they could not have come at a more better time. In addition to the nine soldiers that I have here with me at this site, I also package some of your goodies and send them to other sites that my soldiers are located to help boost their morale as well. In the Army there is a saying that says "High Morale means good work" so your contribution his helping to produce good work from my soldiers and for that I want to say thank you.

Shindand is a Airfield and is located in western Afghanistan. We are less than 100 miles from the border of Iran and to cure your curiosity as to what the base that we are on looks like just think of a good western movie but all the building are replaced by a lot of tents, and a nice scenery beyond the fence with mountains all around us to include one that is covered with snow. Many people in Afghanistan and on this site calls Shindand the Wild Wild West because that is what it looks like and when it gets windy we have a lot of tumbleweed and other things blowing around like the movies and some dust storm as well. We have 10 member here on the team to include myself. Look forward to hearing from you thanks once again. Thank you for your kind words and for keeping us in your thoughts and prays we greatly appreciate it.

1LT André M. Richards

Hello ladies, My name is Cheryl Jenkins Sims and I received the packages that you sent me. My coworkers and I had fun sharing the stuff.. I was extremely happy to read the letters the kids wrote me.. I wrote them all back and sent each one a stuff toy which I hope they will enjoy.. I am glad they are people like you around that care about others they do not even know.. Thanks a lot and may the good Lord continue to bless you and bring us home safe. **SPC Cheryl Jenkins-Sims**

I would like to personally thank you for sending the soldiers in my unit that care package. It really meant a lot to us all to see how much people care and support us. It's a rarity to find people such as yourself who is willing to take the time out and give thanks. So let me thank you for all that you have done for us. Please let me know if this email has reached you. Take care and God bless.

Victor P Colón

Greetings, I just wanted to drop a note to thank you for the kind package you sent. I would also like to thank you for my soldiers as they are the true beneficiaries of your kindness. The snacks and calling cards will go to good use. Again, thank you for the package. We all appreciate what you do for us Thank You, **SGT Aaron Hass**

I received your package the other day. I wanted to drop a quick note to say thank you. I think it is great that your community comes together in support of us servicemen and women. I shared your package with everyone that was around and could use or just wanted something out of it. It was all very appreciated by myself and all the Soldiers. We all say thank you. **LT Kyle Floyd**

Hi Lisa and Debbie, I would like to say thank you so much to you and to the organization for the care package. I work in a shop with 12 other soldiers, and they all loved all the snacks that we received. They were also able to call home with the phone cards, so I know they appreciated it! The most popular item, however, were the letters from the kids...we have 1 of them in our office and the other two are hanging in my room...they are very touching and the reason I want to stay in the Army. I also have one of the prayer pieces (crocheted square with cross) in my ACU pocket and will carry it everywhere with me. Thank you again for making my and my soldiers week! We all very much appreciate the support. God Bless, **2LT Kelly Shaffer**

I am with the 190th MP CO, I wanted to thank yall for all the things that were sent to us, we really appreciate everything yall sent. I personally sent a thank you to the little girl Rachel Furbish, but was unable to send one to the 15 yr old from Southborough because did not have a name or address but really appreciated their letters. Lilly the lamb beanie found a good home. The

drawings on the one box were awesome along with all the well wishes. I mailed you a thank you but it will take a while to reach, mail is already slow and with all the fighting now, it is even slower. We appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness and are blessed to have folks like yall to help us out. Thanks again, much love, deb **SPC Debbie Mathews**

I am Sgt Daniel L. Hammonds and I want to thank you on behalf of all the Marines at in MWSS-274 FOB Dwyer. We all greatly appreciate the time and effort you and you community put into the care packages we all received and greatly enjoyed. We also want to thank all of you for the time and sacrifice all of the members of the American Legion gave for their country. I know what the requirement is to be part of an American Legion. I thank you all from all the Marines here at Fob Dwyer for those who came before. I thank your community for their understanding and compassion for all of us out here. Words could never express the gratitude we feel in our hearts for the love and support you send in the boxes. Respectfully and Sincerely, **Sgt Daniel Hammonds**

Thank you very much for the care packages. As you can imagine, many things are scarce here in Afghanistan and we have to rely on family members and groups like yours for necessities. We have boxes spread throughout our FOB: in the post office, chapel, MWR, and Combat Stress office, that we split up packages such as yours into and spread it out as much as possible so that it may reach as many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines as it can.

I've had the pleasure of visiting Massachusetts a couple of times on my last ship, the USS DeWert, out of Mayport, FL. We were in Buzzard's Bay about three years ago and had the honor of marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in south Boston a couple of years ago. Very hospitable people in Mass. and Boston. I look forward to the opportunity to visit again.

Again, thank you very much for your efforts. It always helps to know that there are those back home that recognize that we're trying our best out here. To apply a quote from "Saving Private Ryan" to present day "But if, you know, if being here earns me the right to get back to my family, well then, then this is my mission." **QM2(SW) Ayers**

Hello! My name is SFC Thomas Snipp. I am the platoon sergeant for E Co186 BSB stationed in Camp Lightning Afghanistan. I just wanted to thank you for the generous package which I received on 04 June 10. It was a wonderful surprise. As you know, soldiers receiving mail is a great morale booster. And your package was certainly a giant lift, not only to me, but to all the other Soldiers in my platoon. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated. It warms my heart knowing that people like you back home, care and support us. Please pass on to your organization my thanks and be sure to tell them again how much your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. Sincerely, **SFC Thomas Snipp**

My name is SSgt Mike Brockelman, and I am stationed with SSgt David Currey in Afghanistan. He forwarded me your care package you sent him through the any Marine program because he noticed you are all from MA. I'm originally from Lancaster, MA and it is incredible to see support coming from so close to home. Thank you so much for all that you sent. I appreciate all the time and efforts you all put in to make us feel more comfortable in our present position. Please feel free to send me an e-mail whenever you have some free time. I could always use the company! **SSgt Brockelman, M.D.**

This is PFC Jonathan Roberts from the 173D Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Today we received a care package you help put together through the Courtney Wilson Care Package drive. First of all I would like to thank you personally for any time and service you put into making this possible. I would also like to thank everyone in Southboro, MA who donated any sort of item to make this happen. Right now the summer is getting hot, we have been here for 7 months and its starting to get old... Any time we receive a care package it is great! I know when I open it up it only last about a minute, but everyone is thrilled! As you could assume, we do not have goodies like twizlers, Swedish fish, or other snacks. Also with army regular we are required to

shave A LOT and razors are always a great gift due to the face we go through a lot. Also in this package we receive an abundance of Chest Items, tooth paste, brushes, and floss which is another thing that is very appreciated. Once again I think you personally for your part in whatever you did to make this happen. And I would also like to say thank you to anyone who donated any sort of time, gifts, or snacks for us. Thank you for your support. **PFC Jonathan Roberts**

The soldiers of GAVIN TAC-1 wish to extend their warmest thank you for taking the time and efforts your organization put into the care package you sent to us. Currently we have very little access to basic comfort items, so your package was well received. I will insure that the comfort items are passed out to the soldiers living here. I want to especially thank Jackie and Matthew for the wonderful letters they added to the box. I will hand these very special letters to some soldiers that can answer your questions. Knowing that we have the support of families from home help to increase the moral of the many members of GAVIN TAC-1, and gives special purpose to the many mission we are tasked to conduct. Again, thank you for the gift box, and it is our pleasure to serve families like yours here in Afghanistan. **LTC Michael Nurse**

My name is Mark Pompi, a Staff Sergeant serving in Afghanistan with the men and women of B-Troop, 1st Squadron, 172nd Cavalry Regiment, out of the Vermont Army National Guard, Bennington Armory. We're part of the 86th IBCT. I wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank you, and to all the fine Americans that donated the care package items in the 1LT Courtney Wilson Care Package Drive in Southboro, MA. We received the packages in great condition and they have been distributed to the soldiers serving in and around our FOB, (forward operating base.)

We have been blessed to have the continued support of great people like yourselves who take time out of their busy weeks to support the troops with those comfort supplies that are so important for morale. The every day items bring a little bit of home to the war zone and trust me, the items are all used and are very much appreciated. We even share our care packages with the Afghan Army soldiers and civilians that we work with daily. They know the American people support them as well in their struggle to bring peace, security and stability to their country in their long fight to be rid of the Taliban.

Our unit has many Massachusetts residents, myself included, (Pittsfield, in the Berkshires,) and it's nice to see that my home state is supporting us while we are away. So in closing, thank you again, very much, for the care packages, God Bless you as well! Go Red Sox!
SSG Mark E. Pompi

Just wanted to say thank you for the care packages and for supporting us. We really enjoyed the snacks! -- **Dominic Young**

My name is SFC Sean D. Abbott, currently serving as the Platoon Sergeant of 2nd Platoon, D Co 1-4 IN. I have been blessed with a great group of soldiers who give it their all every day, no matter how difficult things get or how taxing the fight has been. I wanted to take time to thank all of you for the wonderful care packages for my soldiers and I. Your caring and concern are much appreciated. It has been a rough four months so far with much fighting and some losses, recently two more of our soldiers were killed, this time due to a suicide vest bomber. So your caring has done much to help with soldier morale and overall spirits. I apologize for not writing sooner, I believe that I received your packages about a week or so ago. As the Platoon Sergeant, I work an average of 18 hours a day, sometimes longer if we are fighting. With barely the time to sleep, let alone write. No worries however, sleeping isn't something I am able to do much of as the temperature in my room at midnight has consistently been about 94 degrees. (Free sauna!) I do ask for your forgiveness in not having written sooner. I began last night, but the attack against us messed that up too. Lasted a few hours, but towards the end of it I had to get some shut eye to prepare for more if it were to come. Thank you again for helping my soldiers and I. I'm glad that in the world, there are still those who care about the men and women forward deployed. Take care and God Bless all of you. Your Friend and Soldier, **SFC Sean D. Abbott**