



Darby Nickels added 8 new photos — 🥰
feeling loved at 📍 Kingdom of Bahrain.

11 hrs · Madinat Hamad, Bahrain · 🌐

HUGE shoutout to HelpUSATroops for sending our clinic care packages! All the sailors who received them got a little taste of home that they've been missing. The decorated cards from the kids had people in tears. It's nice to know we are still thought of as heroes. Thank you so much to everyone who had help in putting these together!



THANK YOU HelpUSATroops for sending our clinic care packages! All the sailors who received them got a little taste of home that they've been missing. Everyone who opened a box said "it's like these people know me! All my favorite things are here!" The decorated cards from the kids had people in tears. It's nice to know we are still thought of as heroes. Thank you so much to everyone who had a hand in putting these together!

With Love,

Naval Branch Health Clinic Bahrain

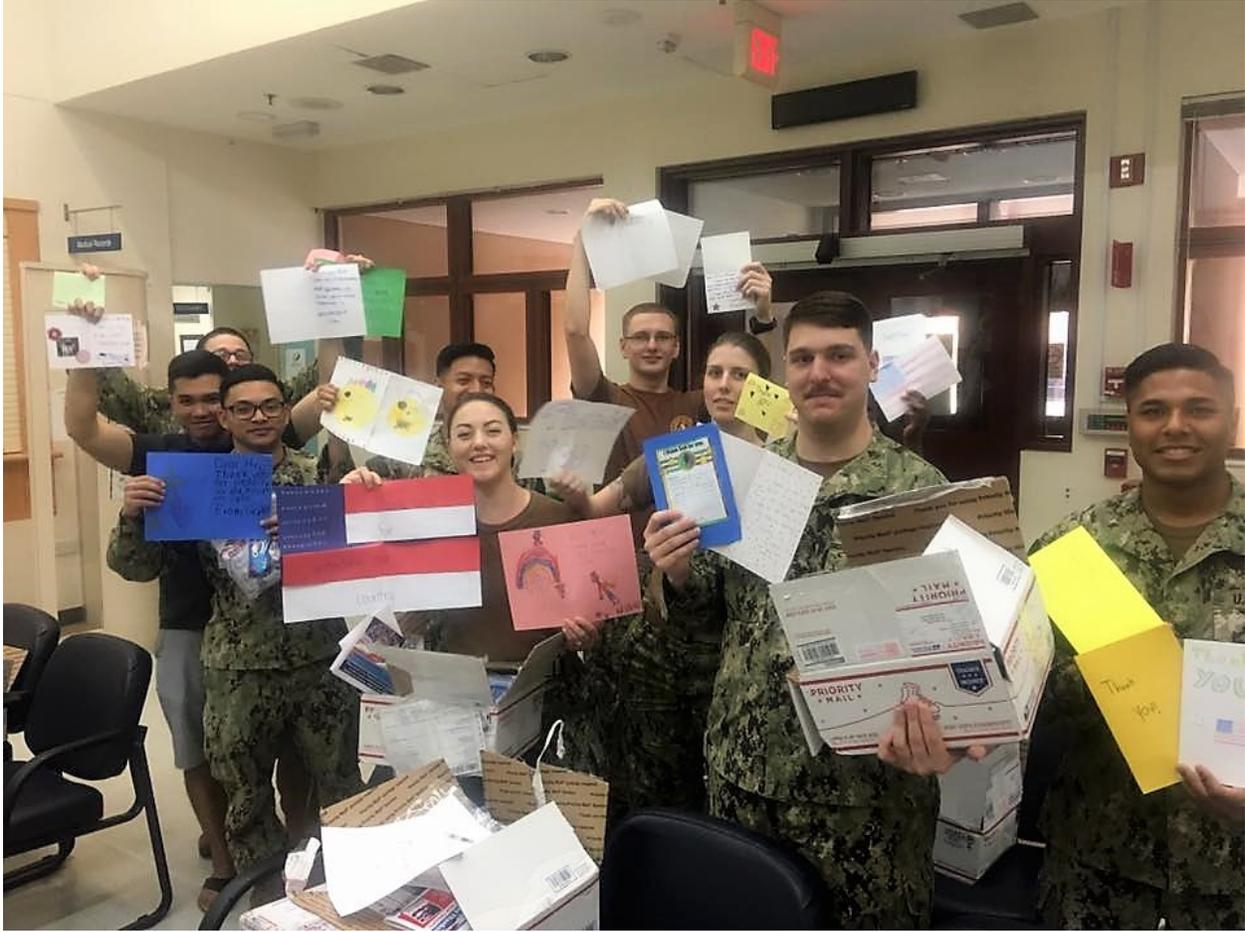






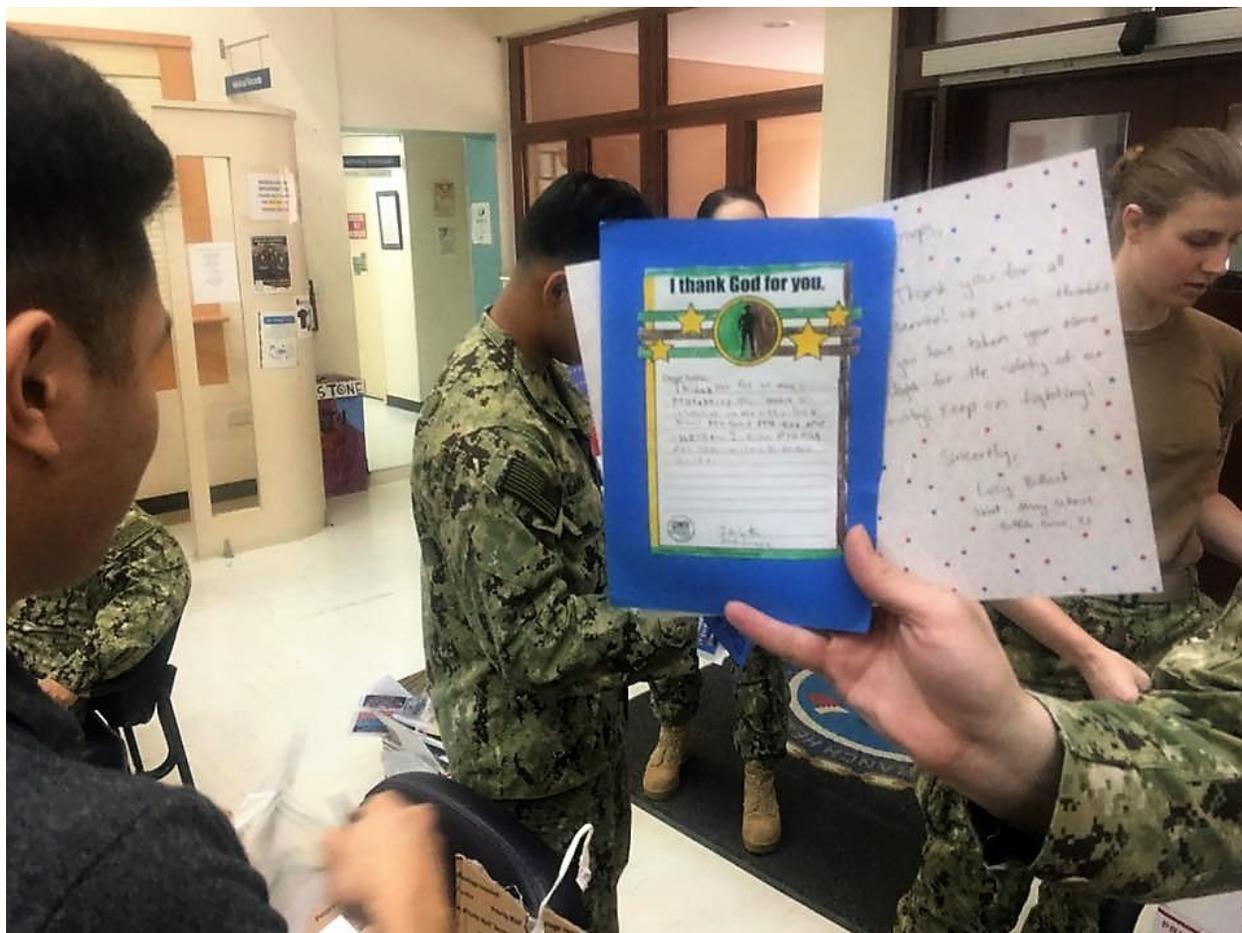
















Thank you from the 577th EPBS!!!







We from 2nd Plt would like to thank you and appreciate all the support that you guys show for us while deployed. We have received the care packages you have sent and it sure was a good way to boost our moral. I have attached some pictures. Once again thank you so much.

v/r
SSG Ocasio, Efrain
2nd PLT
Platoon Sargeant

How's it going ? A buddy of mine received multiple care packages from you guys and handed them out among the platoon . (I was one of them) Words can't describe the smile and joy that they brought upon our faces . I definitely noticed an increase in everyone's morale . Thank you so much , for the uplifting letters and snacks . I'm glad there is people out there who still care about us service members . God bless you guys and greetings from _____ !

Dear volunteers,

I am writing this email to say thank you from my Troop for the care packages, and to confirm that they did arrive. I just got the last ones handed out to my fellow troopers. It was a very welcome surprise and they were all quite happy to receive them. I think you guys must have a very good group, the care packages were very well put together and had a great selection of useful and edible treats. I am thankful that our unit was one chosen to receive the products of your time and effort and hope that this sentiment is conveyed through this letter. You are doing a great job and hope you can continue to support soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Sincerely,
SPC Pedersen Michael

Good Afternoon!

One of our shipmates (Seth Revell) just received 19 of your wonderful packages. He was generous enough to split them amongst all of us. We're all electronics technicians on the USS Mesa Verde LPD 19 currently deployed in the 6th fleet AOR. I can't put into words how helpful these packages are. Not only are they a huge boost to morale but they are filled with necessities we use everyday. I spent a year in Great Lakes for training. If the Navy ever brings me back to Great Lakes I will find these groups and thank you personally. I got notes from Claire, Ann, Abby M, and Cindy. I plan on writing letters to all those who gave me addresses. Please feel free to have anyone email me at this email. I wouldn't mind a pen pal or two, and I would love to thank the wonderful people who sent these packages/notes. Acts of kindness like these make our job much easier. Everyone plays a role, and supporting people is just as important as the job

the people being supported are doing. We couldn't do what we do without everyone back home doing what you do best. I hope you all have a wonderful day, and I can't thank you enough for everything you do for us.

Very Respectfully,

Petty Officer 3rd Class (SW) Thomas R. Spier
CSE4 Workcenter Supervisor
x3300

To Whom It May Concern,

First and Foremost, before I begin I have to give you guys a big thank you. To receive a package while deployed means so much more than anyone can ever know. My fellow sailors and I are apart of Amphibious Squadron 8, we encompass sailors as well as marines while on deployment. Many of us don't receive mail every supply drop that we get, but for those few pieces that we do, instantly brighten up our day. On this day, May 1st 2017, I received not one, not two, but eighteen care packages. Talk about a little overwhelming 😊. I personally only took one box for myself and the rest I split up amongst my division. We are all grateful for what you have done for us. And I apologize for a lack of better terms, but these care packages are fucking amazing(if you use this for public use, may just want to blur that one). In my package alone I received six thank you cards, so in return I would like to give my thanks back. Janine from Troop #3539, A young lady named Katie(if I could say one thing to this young lady it would be to say her penmanship surpasses mine immensely) , Miss Sarah Daray(? Not sure because even I struggle to read cursive after 24 hours of being awake, I feel brave each and every time that I know what I'm fighting for.), Nikolina (First off, what an awesome and intriguing name, may you strive for greatness.), and finally Emmett Knee (As long as I know that what I'm doing makes a difference no matter how small, I am proud to sacrifice my time.). And to the Family of LCpl James Stack, my condolences to you, its never easy losing a loved one, but for has blossomed out of this loss is a beautiful thing. He would be proud to know that he is being honored in this way. As a Sailor, I play rough with Marines, but Bravo Zulu and Hoo Yah. May your seas never be rough and the wind guide you true.

Very Respectfully,

ET3 Seth A. Revell
USS MESA VERDE (LPD - 19)

Kevin.Mikulka@fe.navy.mil

Apr 28 (4 days ago)

to me

Help USA Troops Team,

I am writing to say a heartfelt THANK YOU! I received 15 care packages this past week and they couldn't have come at a better time. My troops were so excited when they saw the boxes and it genuinely brightened all of our days.

The boxes were addressed from Dawn Hedrick, so I hope this email finds her so she knows how much it meant to all of us.

I have been in Diego Garcia for the past 3 months, but prior to that I was stationed in Great Lakes IL for the past 3 years.

My troops loved the contents of the boxes you sent. From snacks to toiletries to even bouncy balls some of them got. One even got a pair of sunglasses. It was like Christmas morning in our building watching them dig through the care packages.

I have attached 2 photos of our team and one with South Paw during my time in Illinois.

Keep up the great work; we appreciate your time and efforts just as much

as
you care about us!

Thank You So Much!

Vary Respectfully,

ETC (SW) Kevin L Mikulka
U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station
Far East Detachment Diego Garcia
British Indian Ocean Territory
PSC 466 Box 8
FPO-AP 96595-0008
DSN: [315-370-2020](tel:315-370-2020)
Commercial: [011-246-370-2020](tel:011-246-370-2020)





12/17/16

Greetings,

We are a chaplain team with the U.S. Army; currently serving in Iraq. The purpose of this message is to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the care package you sent to our troops. We appreciate your time, dedication and genuine desire to bring comfort to the men and women serving in uniform far away from home. Care packages are especially comforting during the holiday season. Please know that the contents of your care package have been managed and distributed appropriately among the troops stationed in our camp. If you included religious items; those were handled respectfully as well.

U.S. troops have different needs based on their specific location. At times we receive items that are unfortunately not needed or not relevant to the context where troops are stationed. We hope that you and/or your organization will consider sending care packages again! Below is a list of considerations that we have developed, based on the specific needs of the camp. We hope these guidelines will help make the preparation of your care packages easier:

- At times care packages are sent back to the sender or treated as abandoned. To prevent this from happening, on the U.S. Customs declaration form, block 9, please check the box that says "Redirect to Address Below." On the space provided below simply write "send to Chaplain or S1." That way, a military chaplain will receive your package and manage it properly.
 - Mail takes several weeks to arrive in some areas, and at times it goes through extreme temperature changes. Please do not send perishable items.
 - Personal hygiene items are very needed in our location, including: high quality razors, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, shower/body gels, body lotion, shampoo/conditioner, mouth wash, foot powder, foot sprays, sun screens, etc. Please check with your local Post Office to confirm which items can be shipped from your location.
 - It is a good idea to tape the lid of items that have liquids/gels inside and to place them inside heavy duty zip lock bags to prevent leaks/spills from happening.
 - Healthy snacks including protein bars, nuts, (roasted peanuts, cashews, almonds, etc.) and granola bars are greatly appreciated.
 - Brand name chewing gum and Life Savers rolls seem to be the most popular type of candy.
 - Many of the troops stationed in our location are young men and women that are part of the so called "digital technology" generation. When they have time off they prefer to use their electronic devices. In general, many of them are not interested in reading printed materials, which by the way are difficult to store since space here is at a premium.
- Once again, thanks so much for your great sense of patriotism and support to our troops that are deployed overseas.

Sincerely,

CH (CPT) Osvaldo L. Tanon Maysonet
Camp Chaplain

SGT Kelly J. Doolittle
Religious Affairs Specialist

11/19/16

As your letter inside your package states "we just want to say Thanks! Despite the fact that your package reached me in Kosovo months ago, I haven't had the opportunity to Thank you. Better Late than never, I hope!

I distributed the packages you sent throughout Multi- National Battle Group East, a unit made up of multiple national guard and active duty units stationed in Kosovo.

Your packages went to:
 HHC 2nd Brigade 28th ID - PA Army National Guard,
 250th MI Battalion, - CA Army National Guard,
 2-285 Aviation, - AZ Army National Guard,
 28th Combat Support Hospital, 44th Med Brigade, Fort Bragg NC,
 1-41I Infantry Battalion, - Fort Carson CO,
 527th MP Battalion – US Army Europe (Weisbaden / Hoherfels)
 763rd EOD Detachment – Fort Leonardwood MO

All soldiers that received the packages really appreciated the support

On a side note as a Pennsylvania National Guardsman for the past 12 years it was nice to see some familiar community names, as I grew up in North Riverside and seeing all those names reminded me of good times from my youth running around in Illinois.

Thank you for everything you do for the soldiers serving overseas.

SFC Kisela

All,

Hello there from Japan! Your package reached us safely and the guys were excited to get such nice snacks, and I was delighted to get the coffee you sent! Your letters were appreciated and some are hanging up at our desks! I hope your week is going well, and know your efforts are appreciated!

Very Respectfully,
 MC1(SW) Amanda S. Kitchner
 Defense Media Activity Yokosuka

"Only the fearless may proceed. Brave ones, foolish ones, both walk not the middle road." -- Undertale

5/19/16

Thank you so much for the care package! SFC Kysela shared with the Battaion and we all were truly grateful! I got a package from you and trust me it was everything I needed plus more.

I did not even realize what I needed until I received your package. Thank You!! By the way this is the 2nd package I received since my deployment and I have been gone from the States since January. So trust me when I say I am Truly Grateful that SFC Kysela shared with me.

Thank you again and I speak on behalf of all of us here on this deployment that have received wonderful packages.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

SGt Jenkins Nilda

5/18/16

Thank you so much for the care packages! We distributed them amongst many of our ships here in Yokosuka. Here are some photos of one ship receiving the packages. This is the USS Benfold. This ship will be going underway soon so they greatly appreciate it.
Elisia Patten

5/18/16

To the communities of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Northbrook, Park Ridge, and Wheeling IL,

First I would like to thank you all for the items in the care packages. Mostly the soap and other hygiene items. We are currently in Camp Taji Iraq and there is a small PX here, but it is very limited in the items that it carries. Getting supplies here to sell to the soldiers of all the armies that are here is hard. And when supplies do make it here, they go quickly. So we appreciate the soap and toothbrushes and all the items you sent to us. Also the letters you send are fun to read. The heartfelt letters from adults reassure us that there are people back home besides our families who are thinking about us and support what we do. And the funny letters from the children are fun to read and give us some humor during our often very serious days. I want to specifically thank Veronica L, Olga G, Jolyn Elliott, Stacy Etchison, Kristopher Mason, and Aberham M for the letters they sent. Also thank you to all the unnamed men and women who work constantly behind the scenes to organize these care packages to us. We appreciate that you take time and money out of your busy days at home to send us these reminders of your support. It is one thing to say you support the troops but another to actually send us something. So thank you all for your continued support of our mission and the overall US mission abroad.

John Hylander

SGT, USA

Dear Help USA Troops,

Thank you for the care packages. We received about 30 of your Priority Mail packages here in Djibouti, Africa, on 11 May.

Roughly 600 Marines are deployed here with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Most are living in austere conditions on a beach.

We truly appreciated the goodies and the hygiene items. DVDs were not really useful, as we have no way to play them, but we did give them away to the local nationals here, and that made them very happy.

Baby wipes/cheap disposable towels/wash cloths are always appreciated for "field showering" with a canteen.

Thanks again.

Very respectfully,

Maj Mike Carlson

Good afternoon my name is Matthew Connolly. I am currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of operation enduring freedom, as a civilian contractor. I did 5 years in the United States Marine Corps as a forward observer, I deployed twice to Afghanistan with them. Currently I am working for the air force supporting and providing security for them. we received a care package from your organization and I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the gesture and how much that means to me and everyone here that we have people like you who go out of their way to send stuff to the troops over seas. I while I was here with the Marines I never received care packages like the ones you send due to the forward positions we were stationed at. im sorry I could not send a picture of me opening the box but if you could show everyone this email or pass on that I got it and appreciate it, it would mean the world to me, please let them know that what they are doing means a lot and helps with morale for everyone. please tell all the children in the picture from the various locations and all the volunteers that helped I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

thank you again,
Matthew Connolly

My name is SPC Robert Whitmore, US Army. It's Christmas Eve and I'm waiting for my wife and three little boys to wake up so I can call them. While I wait I wanted to share my story of how your package brightened up my Christmas season. I'm assigned to a small base in South Korea on a nine month rotation. While through most of my life the Holiday season is full of cheer and happiness, I found myself grumpy and angry during the first part of December. I love and miss my wife and children badly. I miss our traditions. I miss holding my children as they say "wow" every time they see Christmas Lights. I moped around for a week or so feeling sorry for myself.

Then I decided to get over it.

The only thing that I could think of to help improve my mood was to start doing things for other people, so I did. I made pies and took them to work. I made brownies, I made pizza and baked a bunch of goodies and had lots of fun sharing them. I felt better about myself and felt like I was enjoying the holiday spirit. However, my wife and I are trying hard to save money and live frugally, so I didn't really have a budget to keep going with the baking projects.

Then one evening I was walking down the hall in my barracks and some soldiers were discussing what to do with all the candy they'd just received. I asked what the story was and before I knew it I had two whole boxes of candy in my closet from your organization. So, for the last week or so I have felt like the Santa Claus of my unit. I didn't realize just how much the soldiers liked candy and the wonderful variety you sent made it so that nearly everyone I shared with got to find some of their favorite. I shared some with my immediate coworkers at first, but on our last day of work before Christmas, I took two full bags and dumped them in my biggest bowl and wandered around the hall sharing candy with everyone I could find. It's so much fun to see a grizzled old platoon sergeant dig through a bowl of candy and watch his eyes light up when he finds his favorite almond joy! It's fun to see people come back later and ask if they can take some for their battle buddies. I've probably shared candy with 150 other soldiers!

My room mate has had a hard time being away from his family. He is pretty young and has struggled with depression while we've been here. I've worried about him and tried to be a good friend, but it's been difficult to find good ways to help him. Tonight, I've got two bags of candy left and while he is asleep I'm going to stuff as much candy as I can fit into his Christmas stocking. He loves Christmas and I think that waking up to this surprise will really help him enjoy it that much more.

So I guess what I want to say is, for me, thanks so much for providing a way for me to make so many of my friends smile. Getting gifts doesn't make my season bright, but being able to give and give and give and still have more to share has helped me stay cheerful while I'm away from my family. I'm so grateful to you for providing a way for me to do it! You've made a difference in my holiday season and helped me feel joy even though there's some difficulty in my life while I'm away. Thank you for remembering me and my battle buddies!

-SPC Robert Whitmore

THANKS FROM THE TROOPS

Dear Sirs and Ma'ams:

I am a contractor flying for the Army here in Bagram. Today the MWR gave our project two care packages that you prepared and sent over. Thank you very much. It was well appreciated.

I would like to compliment your organization and the people in it on another point. Our forces have been over here for almost 14 years, so long that it might be understandable if the effort began to be seen as routine and not worthy of note. But for people like you, it hasn't. It is still a singular enough thing that you make extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Americans over here. That is a most wonderful and fine thing. Despite all the frustrations and the "mouse on a wheel" character of what we are doing over here, your people and your organization still notice and appreciate the efforts of the men and women here. Thank you. I am touched by that. Things get you down and sometimes you think it is for nothing but then efforts by organization like yours and the Pease Greeters are made and it lifts you back up because it is evidence that the Americans, the Americans I grew up with are still out there and still care. I can only speak for myself but I suspect there are others over here who feel the same way.

Thank you again.

C.

Good morning! This is Greg Jones and I am the Helicopter Maintenance Officer at HSC-22 (U.S. Navy squadron). I wanted to thank you for the card that you sent to us. That was really thoughtful and generous of you!

To answer your question in the letter: I also love running and I spend most of my time in the gym as well! I am also training for a race that takes place in November.

I have attached a picture of our squadron. We are currently on deployment onboard the USNS COMFORT, which is a hospital ship. We go to various countries to treat patients and teach them on how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you again for your letter and I hope you enjoy the rest of your weekend!

Very Respectfully,
Greg Jones

LT Greg Jones
HSC-22 DET THREE Maintenance Officer
USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20)





Just wanted to say a BIG Thank you!

This was so great!

My sister called me almost in tears yesterday (grateful tears) she had just skyped with my nephew, Evan and he went on and on about the care packages.

It was the first time she had seen his face since he was deployed.

He was laughing that he left his post for just a few minutes, and most of his unit helped themselves to the packages.

He just laughed...he said that many of his friends receive nothing and he was glad to share with them all he had.

I will ask for the chaplains name in order to get some more packages distributed to those that need them.

He is leaving for Kuwait for the next 40 days, so his address will change.

I would love to see the pictures!

Thanks again..

Steve



Dear Help USA Troops,

My name is 1stSgt Adcox and I am the Company 1stSgt for H&S Company 3d Battalion 7th Marines, currently deployed in the Middle East supporting Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. I am happy to let you know that we recently received much support in the forms of care packages from you organizations. As you can imagine simple items like these make our lives much better and do wonders for the morale and living conditions for my Marines and Sailors. For our viewing please sure I have hung your letters in my care package area for all to see. Your continues support during the deployment will be much appreciated and I look forward to future conversations. As to help you with what we are constantly in need of I have prepared a list that would be the most beneficial items for us:

Shaving Cream

Razors (preferably 3 blade and disposable) Sunblock Washcloths & towels Letter writing gear Tooth brushes Tooth paste Floss Mouthwash Rec. Items (footballs, volleyballs, cards, magazines, board games, etc.) Shampoo and Conditioners Two Ply toilet paper Insect Repellent Bar Soap Chapstick Laundry Detergent Snacks (Tuna pouches, beef jerky, chewy granola bars, protein bars, etc.)

Any and all support is always appreciated, but the above items seem to be what we need and go through the most. Thank you for all that you do and Semper Fi.

Sincerely,

1stSgt Adcox, Joseph M.
Company First Sergeant
H&S Company V37



After 581 boxes.....

I have attached a picture I received from my Son in law on Mother's Day! What a gift, knowing that they are safe. They have started to receive the packages that were sent out last week. WOW! our post office does work fast. Also, below is a letter from 1stSgt, he is part of my Son in law's unit.

My family and I would like to say thank you for all the support that we have received in the past month. We appreciate all the donations, support and help shuffling through this project, it takes a lot of time, energy and volunteers to pull it off. It's so important to keep reaching out to the Troops and letting them know that we honor them for their service to our Country. Thanks again for help service the USA troops that are deployed far from home. and until they all come home.. we keep doing it again and again.



letter from AIR FORCE.pdf - Adobe Reader

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Dawn Hedrick,

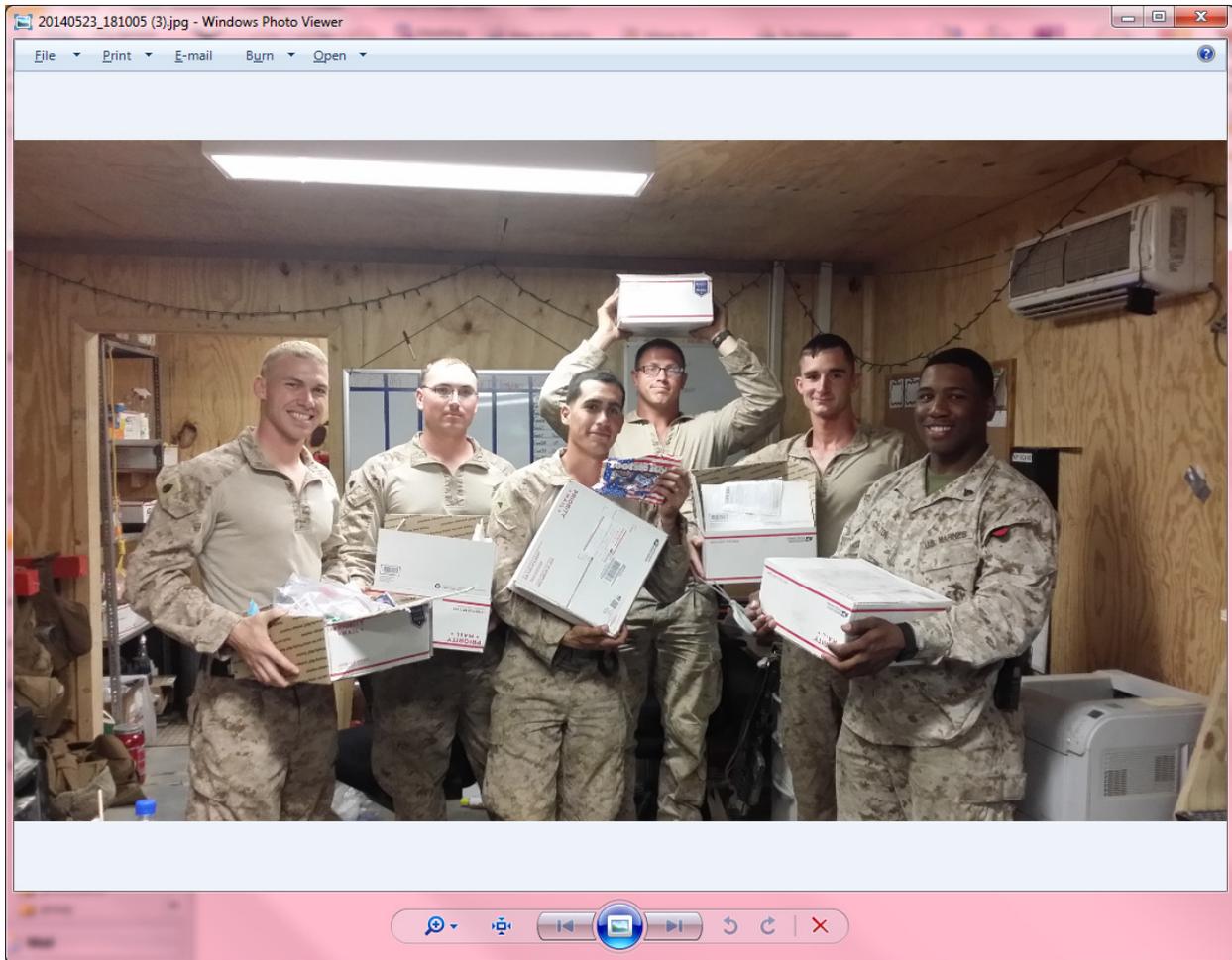
Thank you so much for the care package! As always, I shared most of it with my fellow Airmen here in Afghanistan. There was a wrestling match over the Skittles and baby wipes; hot commodities apparently. Many of our care packages come from churches or organizations that have the mission of taking care of us troops while we are deployed. So I find it my mission to write back and say thank you because not only is it nice to get a bunch of goodies in a box, it is nice knowing that people from home are still thinking about us. We googled your name just to see if you were part of a larger organization that we could thank, and we were surprised.

First of all, we all would like to send our condolences to your family and the Stack family for the loss of LCpl Stack. We all know what it is to lose a loved one, a friend, or a fellow military member. He paid the ultimate price to serve our nation and forever will he hold a place in our hearts. However, his passing was not in vein. Because of this, a number of us get to reap the benefits of the comforts of care packages sent by you and your organization. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

SSgt Joshua Ferrulli
United States Air Force
& the Port Dawgs of the 455th EAPS
"Fly, fight, win!"



I'm the one on the left with the halo over my head ;)



Hi Dawn,

Was nice to hear from you and I hope you are doing well. To answer your questions:

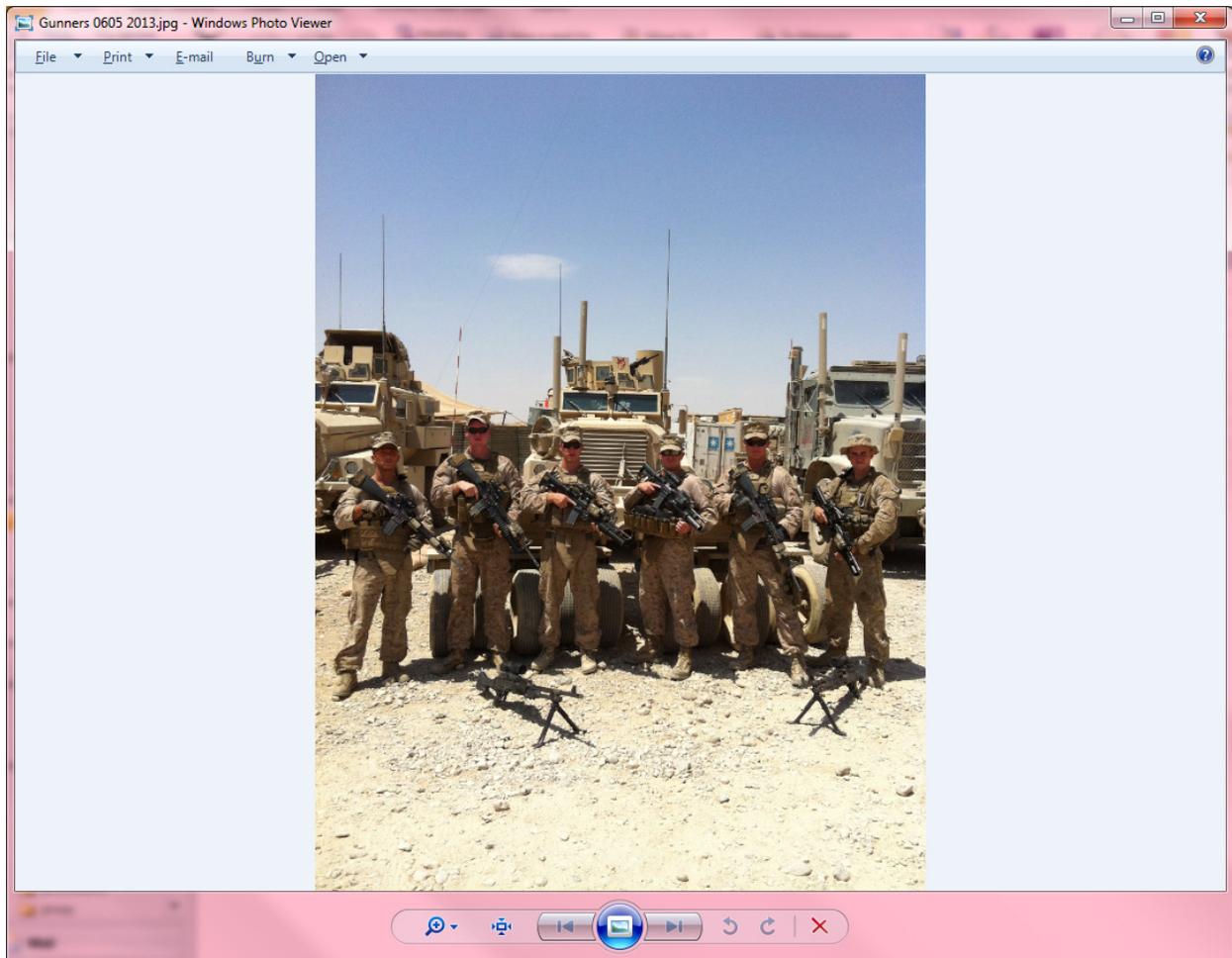
Yes, I would be interested in helping again with the care packages. Just keep me updated on what, where, when, etc.

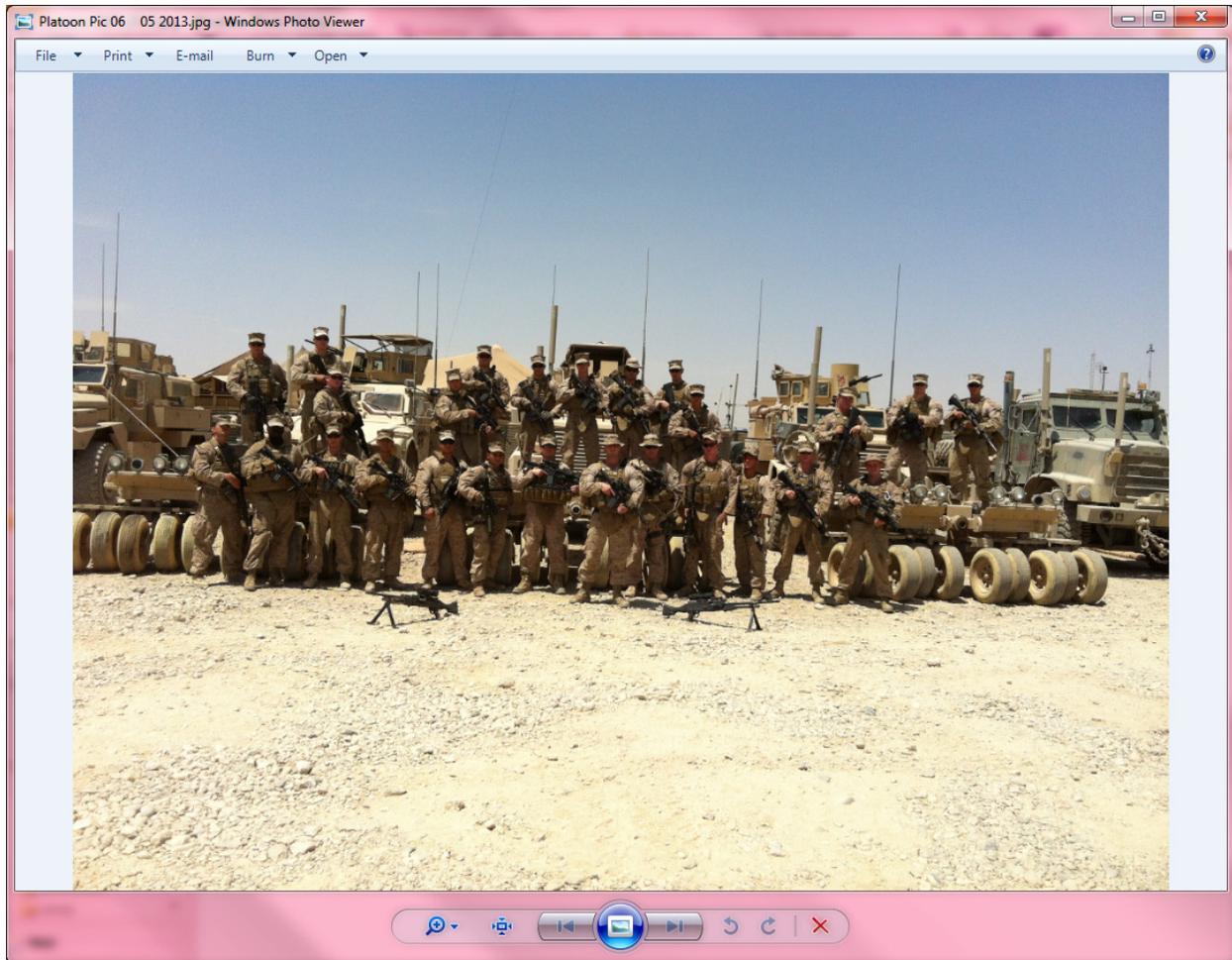
My nephew just returned from Afghanistan 2 days ago. He is home with his wife downstate in Bloomington and safe. Haven't talked to him yet other than a Facebook note to say "Welcome Home". I don't know if I told you this but in his last care package from you he got letters from kids that he loved. One letter thanked him for serving and had written in it "can you send me a bazooka?" That was hilarious.

My daughter had a new baby, my first grand-baby, a month ago and we are taking a 4-day weekend the weekend of Veterans Day to fly out to Colorado to visit. If I was here I would have come to the event. As with every year, the veterans all work on Veterans Day while everyone else gets the day off. Oh, well. Never had a Veterans Day off unless it was on a weekend.

Again, thanks for all you do, and let me know any time I can help.

Matt





Sir or Ma'am,

I just wanted to write a line or two to thank you very much for the packages that we recieved in Afghanistan. First Sergeant Soto delivered them to our Combat Out Post today. My Marines and I are very grateful to recieve the packages and it boosted our moral!!! It was nice to hear that we are in your prayers and we are being supported by you!!! I have attached a couple pictures of my platoon. Again thank you and please keep us in your prayers!!!

Very Respectfully,

Gunnery Sergant Jerry E. Bray
3rd BN, 4th Marine, 7th Marine Regiment
COP Shir Ghazay Afghanistan
Call Sign "Diesel 7"

Dawn,

I just received an email from John Sullivan. He received the care packages and wanted to express his appreciation. He passed everything along to the wounded warrior hospital. He said the soldiers loved everything, but really got a kick out of reading the cards and letters from the kids. He wanted everyone involved to know how grateful they were, as was he.

My thanks as well.

And on a side note, if you are involved in the VFW, The Emerald Society bagpipe band will not be in the July 4th parade again this year, however, like last year, there will be a group coming to the vfw to play anyway

Stephanie Mack

To my fellow Americans,

I wanted to send y'all an email Thanking you for the packages you are sending to the troops.

I actually received one of them on board my ship, the USS MAHAN DDG-72. My ship is currently deployed overseas in the Mediterranean Sea conducting routine security operations. We have currently been deployed for about 5 months so far with the end somewhere in sight.

Me and my fellow shipmates really enjoyed the candy, Ramen noodles, and all the other great things you provided inside of the box. I especially loved all the letters that came with the box of people who support us. Most people do not know what it is like to be unable to enjoy the everyday things we take for granted at home, so when a pack of skittles, some ramen noodles, or even a Gatorade make their way to us out here, it ends up being a great day. The other night I actually had a dream about eating a turkey sandwich, haha....I have not eaten a real turkey sandwich in over 5 months. Its funny the things you crave when you go without.

Words can not express how much it means to me as well as everyone else on my ship and in the military, when we receive Mail and packages from people who just want to do something good for us. Many days out to sea just feel like a job, but letters like those that you have provided are very humbling and definitely remind us of why we serve our country in the first place.

Just to give you a little information about myself, My name is Robert and I am originally from Dallas, Texas. My job in the Navy is a Cryptologic Technician (Collection), which basically is just a portion of the Intelligence field....When people ask what I do in the Navy, the easiest way to explain is telling them I do things similar to the FBI, CIA, and NSA. I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would some day be doing this, it just sort of happened, but it has been great so far. I enlisted in the Navy in 2009 and was sent to school in Florida for 9 months. I then got orders to the USS MAHAN DDG-72 out of Norfolk, Virginia where I have been since 2010. This is my second deployment, and most likely my last. In my 3 years on the ship, some of the places I have had the opportunity to visit include Spain, Portugal, Italy, Sicily, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Cyprus, and Seychelles. During my time in the Navy, I have also had the opportunity to be trained by former Navy SEAL's for the security force on board my ship. The opportunities for people are endless in the military and I encourage anyone who may be interested in joining in the future to explore their options. I never would have thought 4 years ago that I would have had the chance to see, do, and experience the things that the military has allowed me to. With that said, everyone here on my ship works very hard, typically around 12-18 hour days, 7 days a week. We do not have many days off, but when we do, we take advantage of them to the full extent. The days we receive mail, which happens approximately every 7 to 10 days, are the highlight of many peoples deployment. Everyone loves getting stuff, haha.

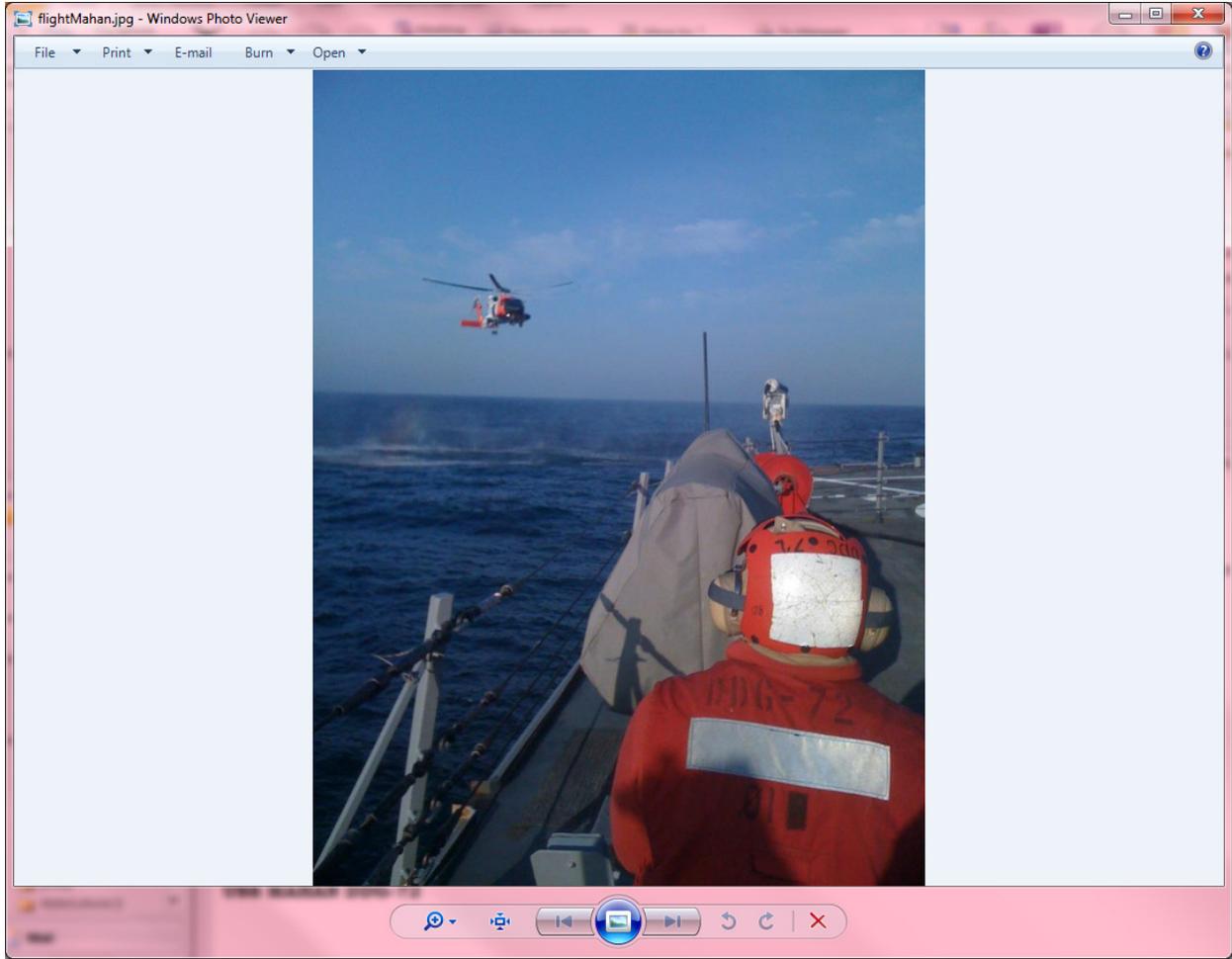
Please continue supporting the troops the way you already are. Not every one of the service members that receive your packages may write you a thank you letter, but I know that they all are thankful and very appreciative of your support. Keep it up!

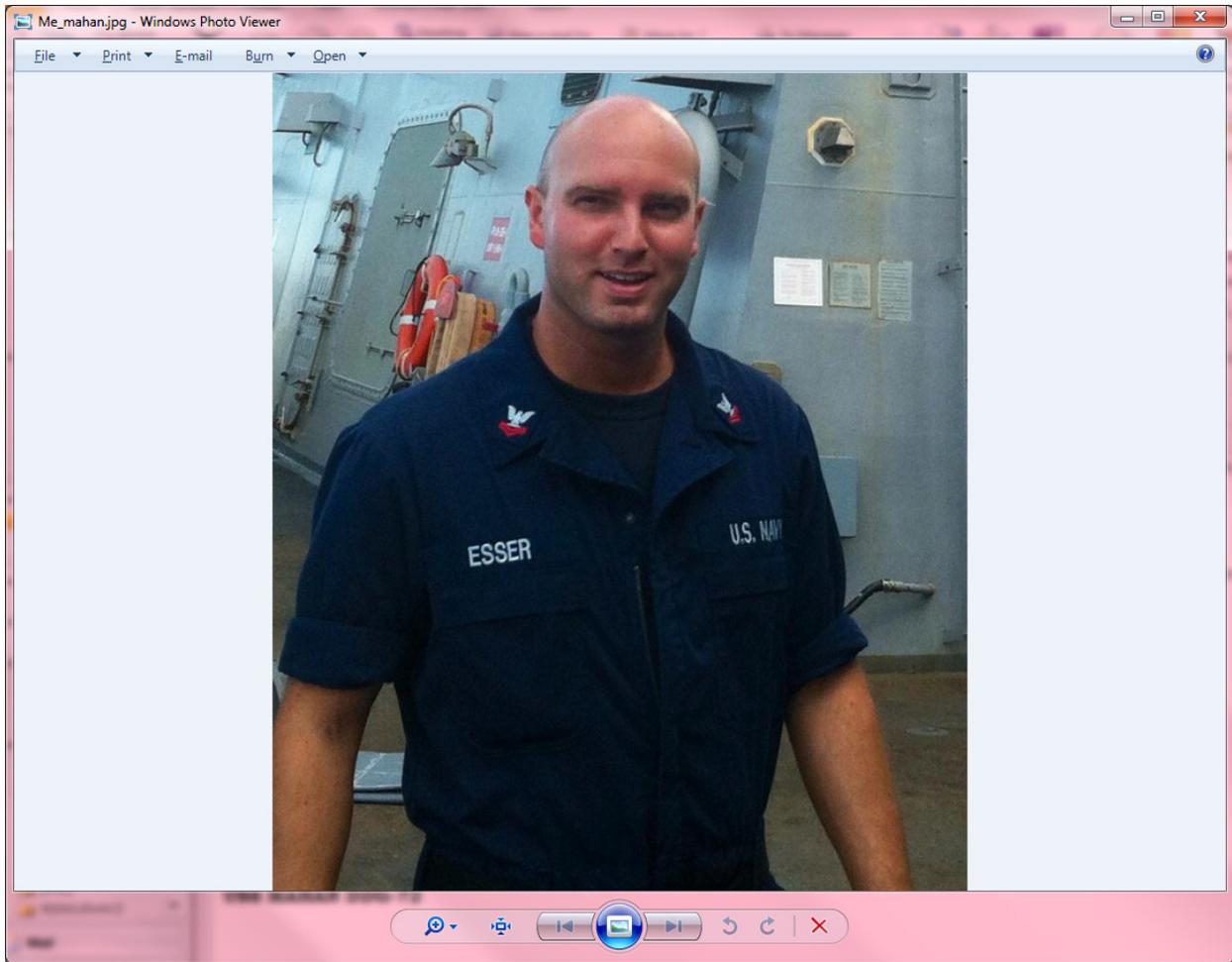
P.S. I have attached a few photos of the ship as well as myself.

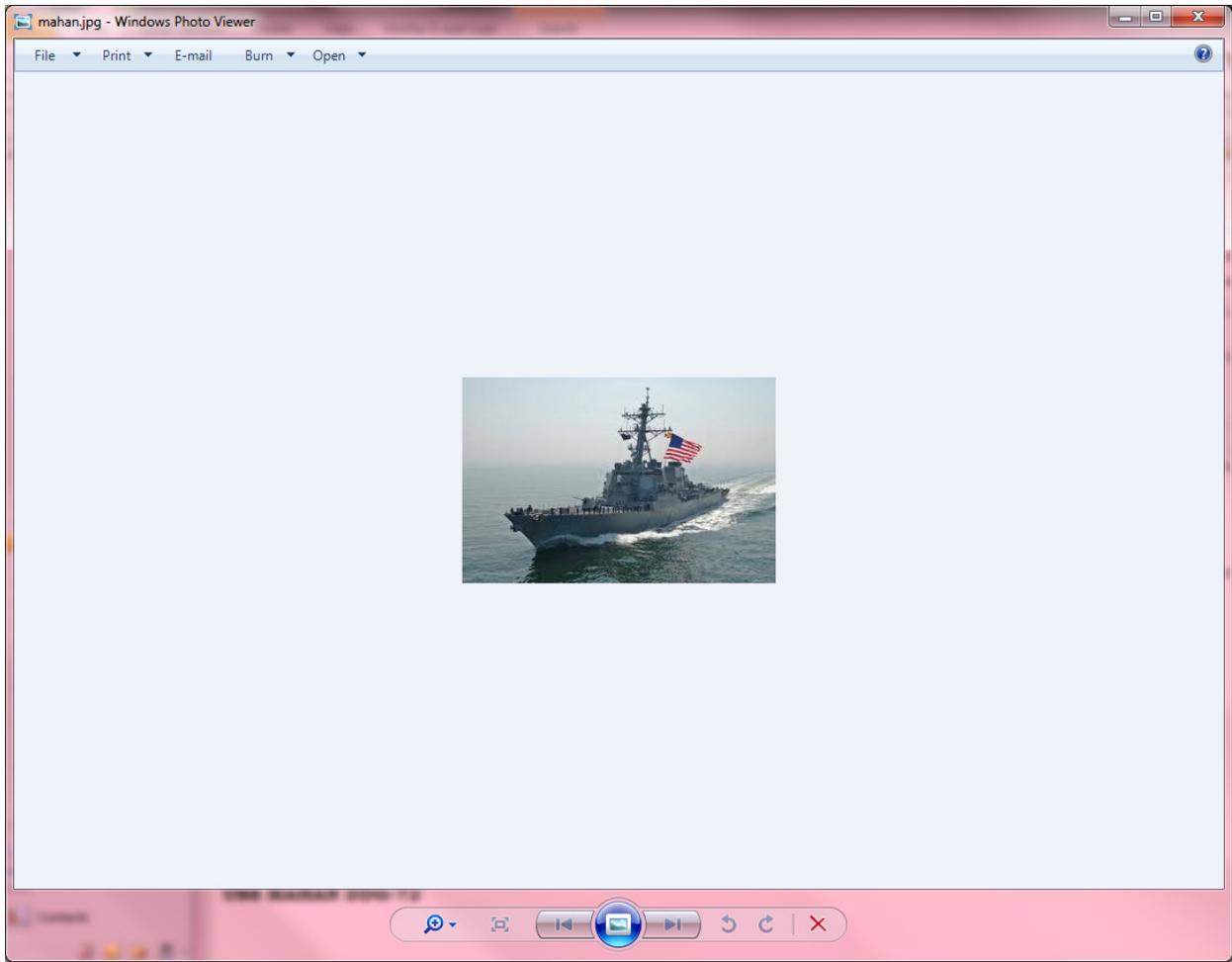
V/R

CTR2(SW) ROBERT B. ESSER

USS MAHAN DDG-72













Hello everyone at Help USA Troops!!

We received a great care package from you all today!! Thank you very much! We are honored and grateful to have such wonderful countrymen and women! It makes all of the sacrifices worthwhile when we receive the care packages but especially the letters from you guys back home. Rest easy tonight knowing that the men of 3D Battalion 7th Marines are on watch!

1stSgt Jason D. DiCosimo
India Company 3/7

Good morning,

I want to send you a thank you from the 24th MEU, we truly appreciate the care packages and the boxes you put together for us. Those packages mean the world to us and we always look forward to getting mail, the thought you put into the boxes as well as the expense we are truly grateful for everything.

Thank you again.

Sgt Gupton, Neil

Kilo Company sends its hello's and deepest regards for the care packages that we received on your behalf. We are so very grateful for Patriots such as yourself and your organization which brings smiles to forward deployed troops. Again, many thanks to you and your volunteers who anxiously await our safe return.

r/s

1stSgt Uriegas Jr, A
K Co, 3d Bn, 7th Mar

Dear Help USA Troops,

My name is 1stSgt Adcox and I am the Company 1stSgt for H&S Company 3d Battalion 7th Marines, currently deployed in the Middle East supporting Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. I am happy to let you know that we recently received much support in the forms of care packages from you organizations. As you can imagine simple items like these make our lives much better and do wonders for the morale and living conditions for my Marines and Sailors. For our viewing please sure I have hung your letters in my care package area for all to see. Your continues support during the deployment will be much appreciated and I look forward to future conversations. As to help you with what we are constantly in need of I have prepared a list that would be the most beneficial items for us:

Shaving Cream

Razors (preferably 3 blade and disposable) Sunblock Washcloths & towels Letter writing gear Tooth brushes Tooth paste Floss Mouthwash Rec. Items (footballs, volleyballs, cards,

magazines, board games, etc.) Shampoo and Conditioners Two Ply toilet paper Insect Repellent Bar Soap Chapstick Laundry Detergent Snacks (Tuna pouches, beef jerky, chewy granola bars, protein bars, etc.)

Any and all support is always appreciated, but the above items seem to be what we need and go through the most. Thank you for all that you do and Semper Fi.

Sincerely,

1stSgt Adcox, Joseph M.
Company First Sergeant
H&S Company V37

UNCLASSIFIED

Dawn,

I recently received three very generous care packages from you and your organization. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to you and everyone involved in the love and support you send to service members while we are away from home. It's people like yourselves that make getting through these days away from home and loved ones easier to get through and brings additional pride to the service and sacrifices being made daily while deployed for our country.

I have attached a recent picture of myself and colleagues. I am the guy wearing the sunglasses. :)

Thanks again!

Very Respectfully,

SFC Ken Rosenthal
Contracting Officer
Regional Contracting Center - East

UNCLASSIFIED

To the Volunteers of Illinois,
The staff and patients of the Warrior Recovery Center would like to send our most heartfelt and sincere thanks for the care packages we received at our facility. The hygiene and food items are so incredibly helpful, since we often receive patients from the hospital who arrive with next to nothing! We take care of Wounded Warriors here on Kandahar Airfield, assisting them in the process of recuperating so that they can do the one thing most of them want more than anything: to go back to their friends and fellow Service Members in the fight. It means a great deal to these patients, especially in the times of personal adversity they face as they heal, to see the kindness and support of their countrymen. We at the Warrior Recovery Center would also like to express gratitude and condolences for Mrs. Dawn Hedrick, whose son-in-law, LCPL James Stack, made the ultimate sacrifice for his brothers and sisters. From what I have read, her son-in-law and the father of her granddaughter was a remarkable young man, one with the clarity and courage to know from a very young age that there was nothing he wanted more than to serve his country. I am most mournful that I could not have had the pleasure to meet him myself. Thank you again for your support and your kindness.

V/R

SGT Almeida, Lauren
TF Ready First (1-1 AD) LNO
Warrior Recovery Center

Good Morning, or however this reaches you,

My name is Lance Corporal Salahuddin Muhammad, but you may already know me through my mother, Deborah. She informed me recently that you and your fellow coworkers collaborated and made a huge contribution to my fellow Marines' morale and welfare by sending out an untold amount of care packages. I just wanted to thank you personally, Ms. Hedrick and Co., because not every person in this world feels the same way about the troops that you and your people do. It's folks like you and your team that make what I do worthwhile. I'm certainly glad to be protecting such wonderful people, and I know my fellow Marines feel the same way. Thank you.

LCpl Muhammad, S.J.

8th Comm Bn.

Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan

Hello,

This is to provide information of someone serving overseas. Arlington Heights Police Officer John Sullivan has been in Afghanistan since June. We sent him several care packages Christmas, which he mostly re-gifted to a nearby wounded warrior hospital. He was very appreciative.

Thank You,

Stephanie Mack

Sergeant, Arlington Heights Police Department

This is from the Special Ops unit in the remote mountains that we sent 27 boxes to. They have been there almost a year.

Eric's team received ALL of their boxes. They were SO THANKFUL!!! Eric said they rummage through them on and off all day. It was like a huge Christmas for them. I would send a picture of them with their boxes, but because they are special operators, I can't send anything showing their face.

As a wife, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. They are very isolated and this was a huge deal for them.

Your kindness is much appreciated. To the parents of the fallen Marine who started this, you have honored your son well. I thank him for his ultimate sacrifice, although "thank you" will never be enough. I live my life to honor such men. My Dad was a Marine pilot in Vietnam. Marines are special and "know" they are the best!!!

Thanks again for putting smiles on the faces of my husbands team.

With many thanks,

Jennifer Choyfoo

Sent from my iPhone
Romans 8:28

Stack and Hedrick Families,

My name is Lcpl Michael Howard with $\frac{3}{4}$ currently deployed in Afghanistan. I was deeply moved when I read your letter about your son and his/your families sacrifice for our country. First off I would like to personally thank you for your continued dedication to our military and understanding what we are going through over here. We all greatly appreciate of you taking the time to put together a care package of items we needed and will use daily. Also I would like to commend you on your dedication to our Lord. We have a nightly prayer group that is growing every day and a service every Sunday and the spirit of God is defiantly here working in $\frac{3}{4}$ and your message contained in your letter just helps us spread the word even more. From all of us here at $\frac{3}{4}$ thank you

Hi Dawn and Linda:

The packages arrived big time!

My brother, Denis, reports the event (below).

Best,

Greg

From: Denis Padovani [<mailto:denispadovani@bellsouth.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 9:30 PM

To: Greg Padovani

Subject: Packages

Hey Greg,

I received the 2nd set of packages from Dawn. Funny thing happened though. I took one box to a little outpost called Shukvani. I brought the box to GySgt Cox, and while I was standing there talking to him, I looked over at a pallet full of boxes – all from Dawn of A.H.

We both laughed, and I just added mine to the pile. They do need those kinds of things there. They live on MREs and bottled water only - no soda, coffee, etc. I know the Marines appreciated the boxes.

I went back to get my camera and take a photo of the pallet, but by the time I got back, someone had moved them. I don't know where they went.

Please tell Dawn that they did arrive in Shukvani, AF and the Marines were very appreciative.

Denis Padovani

From: Combs, Christy
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 11:19 AM
To: Chicago N MCO 1010-Everyone
Cc: Dennis, Connie; Hedrick, Dawn
Subject: Thanks to Everyone !

I received a Face book message from my son, Jacob today. Jake is currently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

His team received 5 boxes from Allstate as a result of our recent Support Your Troops drive.

They asked that I send a big **Thank you** to everyone. The boxes arrived at a perfect time just as they returned to camp after a 4 day deployment out in the field.

It was like a holiday – everyone was excited to have a little gift from home and all was much appreciated!

THANK YOU!

Christy B. Combs

Staff Claim Adjuster / Allstate Insurance



Evening, Ms. Hedrick,

We got a couple more packages from you yesterday, and I just can't get over how generous you are. It certainly lifts my spirits when I know people back home care about me, and I know my fellow Marines feel the same. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!!!

LCpl Muhammad, S.J.
8th Comm Bn.
Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan

Sir or Ma'am,

I just wanted to write a line or two to thank you very much for the packages that we recieved in Afghanistan. First Sergeant Soto delivered them to our Combat Out Post today. My Marines and I are very greatful to recieve the packages and it boosted our moral!!! It was nice to hear that we are in your prayers and we are being supported by you!!! I have attached a couple pictures of my platoon. Again thank you and please keep us in your prayers!!!

Very Respectfully,

Gunnery Sergeant Jerry E. Bray
3rd BN, 4th Marine, 7th Marine Regiment
COP Shir Ghazay Afghanistan
Call Sign "Diesel 7"