

Ms. Travis,
Wow, Wow, Wow. We just received your boxes with all the customized stockings and all I can say is Wow, you all really out did yourselves and we highly appreciate it, you put smiles on a lot of faces. Thank you all so much.

Also if you can thank Ms Barbara Burgiet from Glen Mills for my card.

Respectfully, Randy R. First Sergeant HHC 1-8 Cav

To the Chief Elf-in-Charge,

Greetings from Afghanistan! My unit and I received your generous and thoughtful hand-made Christmas Stockings filled with snacks and goods. We enjoyed them and appreciate your display of care for your fellow Soldiers. Please continue to remind your brothers and sisters in harm's way that they are loved and thought of dearly (this does a lot more than you all may think as it is hard to describe with words). I hope the brevity of this message doesn't mask the level of our thankfulness and anticipation to join you all back in our great country. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! God bless!

Kindly, Army Soldier



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Thank you Stockings for Soldiers,
everyone loved their stockings.
-SFC Wes B.
560th MCT
Camp Marmal Afghanistan

THANKS a Bunch for the treats. BEST care package ever!! Everyone usually sends deoderant. Haha

Sgt. Marcus S. Many Thanks from the Airmen of the 577th

“Engineers lead the way”

Good Morning for you,

I just want to take the time to personally thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Christmas stocking. It's always a good feeling to know people at home have not forgotten about you and have taken the time to show their appreciation. Please thank everyone involved for me.

SGT Tashay J. HHC 198th S1

Dear Mrs. Travis,

I received a Christmas package from Stockings For Soldiers today. Thank you very much for your thoughtful gift. These packages do indeed brighten our spirits a bit while we're so far from home during the holidays. Folks like you remind me of the reasons that we do what we do. Thank you again.

Warm regards and Merry Christmas! MSgt John P. Logistics Readiness Officer Combat Logistics Battalion 6

Mrs. Travis,

Thanks for the thoughtfulness by creating, packing, and mailing all the stockings for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

We received A-J today. Attached is a picture of our company. I will send more pictures as we get together and hand out the stockings!

Again, thanks for your kindness. 1stSgt Paul S. Bravo Company First Sergeant 1ST BN, 9TH MAR
"DI BO CHET"



Greetings from Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan!

I want to say a sincere THANK YOU for the wonderful stockings and all the amazing treats we received! They are a very nice surprise and absolutely made the holidays much brighter for my Marines. Thank you again; your thoughts and generosity during the holiday season are greatly appreciated!

Happy Holidays and Semper Fi. GySgt Branden M. HQ Co 1stSgt S-4 Logistics Chief Camp Leatherneck,

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Judy:
I just wanted to send along my thanks for the stocking and box, which arrived yesterday. I'm amazed at some of the little tidbits that were tucked away in there. Thanks to everyone there at Stockings for Soldiers for the support, time, and good cheer - it makes things so much easier than you know. Best, Stu G. FOB Apache, Afghanistan Go Dawgs!

Dear Judy,
I want to personally thank you for sending myself and the other Marines I'm currently deployed with stockings. A little piece of home is always appreciated. Happy holidays and thank you again.

Respectfully Submitted Corporal Benjamin S. Supply Admin CMR Clerk 2D MAW FWD

Good Morning,
Our stockings started showing up today. Everyone was super happy and hung their socks by their desks. I want to express our extreme gratitude to all of the personnel involved for showering us in Christmas cheer.

Thanks again! Jennifer J. Regional Contracting Center-South (RCC-S) Kandahar Airfield (KAF), Afghanistan CENTCOM

Judy, Thank you very much for the stocking and care package! I spread the love to my troops out here and they thank you as well. I noticed that among the list of contributors was the West Point Parent's club of DE. Please give them a big "Go AIR FORCE, BEAT ARMY"...my parents were active members of the US Air Force Academy Parent's Club of North Texas until I graduated in 2007.

Merry Christmas and thanks again! John

Thank you, Thank you, thank you soo much for all your hard work and love by sending us all these beautiful stockings. May God bless you for everything you've done for us! Hope you have a very wonderful Christmas!
- Always, Alisa R.

Judy Travis, I just wanted to thank you and your great organization for sending the holiday stockings. The stockings are a touch of home for these Marines who really miss their families and friends during this special time. Thanks.
-- Semper Fi, Captain Billups, USMC "ONE TEAM"

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Thank you so much. This is what I could get together where I'm at. The rest (of the stockings) will go out to others that are not at my base. I personally read every card that was not in a stocking. Please thank EVERYONE!!!...They are on the wall for all to read and enjoy.
V/R
Jesse S.



Dear Miss Judy,

I wanted to wish you and all of your elves at Stockings for Soldiers - Delaware Inc. Happy Holidays. I can't express my gratitude enough for everyone taking the time to brighten my holiday season with your personalized Christmas stocking that I received today. After hanging it up, it really does bring a "touch of home". I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you so much!

....After completing two tours in Iraq and now as I draw closer to the end of my third deployment here in Afghanistan it still amazes me, the outpouring of heartfelt love and support for our military during the past 12 years at war, to know it's Soldiers are not forgotten. We are all truly blessed to be a part of such a noble and caring nation. I'm so proud to serve our great country and even more proud to serve the American people. It truly is the greatest job in the world...

Thank you again and have a very Merry Christmas, Love, Kevon



Judy,

I received a stocking stuffed with goodies today. There was a post card from a **Kenneth Easton, from Folsom, CA**. Is it possible for you to send him the attach picture to thank him. If not, thanks for what you and the Elf's do. Have a Merry Christmas.

CSM DAVID P. 1-10 Attack/Reconnaissance Battalion

TASK FORCE TIGERSHARK "STRIKE AT NIGHT"



Judy,

I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know your boxes (2) were received yesterday. As well I wanted to tell you thank you for the gifts, thoughts, effort and money contributed to sending these packages to each individual Marine. We have decided to put the packages under the Christmas tree and wait till Christmas to open them so the Marines have a little something to look forward to. On Christmas, it is my intent to get a couple pictures and forward those to you so that you and your group can see the results of their efforts. Again, thank you and please let the others know we do appreciate the support back home from individuals like yourself. Merry Christmas and God bless you all, Brian Respectfully Sent, MSgt Brian D.. Operations Chief

Hi Judy,

I just wanted to let you know that your care package arrived in Manas today. Unfortunately MSgt Steve O. had to return home early and was not here to receive it. I wanted to thank you and let you know that it was perfectly timed. We will be hanging the stockings around our work centers so everyone can see them. Thank you for thinking of us it means a lot to the deployed folks.

God bless DAVID M. SMSgt, USAF First Sergeant, 376 ECES Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic

Ma'am,

Yesterday I received your very thought Christmas Stocking. My fellow Soldiers and I appreciate your efforts in creating and shipping them to us. Please express my thanks and appreciation to all of the "Elves" that made it possible. The "touch of home" is a morale booster and it came just in time for a cold morning and the hot chocolate was just what I needed.

Thank you again. Respectfully, SGT Timothy S. Senior Medic 82nd ESC Camp Leatherneck, AFG



Judy,
Season's greetings to you, your staff, and our new friends and neighbors in Wilmington, DE. On behalf of the Marines, Royal Air Force Airmen, and British Army personnel within the Regional Command (Southwest) C-1 allow me to sincerely express our appreciation for the recently received Christmas Stockings. Every member of our staff in receipt of your token of appreciation were pleased with your handy work and were especially surprised that you took the time to personalize their stockings. I've enclosed a photo of the crew to share with your staff. Again, your gratitude during this holiday period further

enhances the morale of our military members and allows them to remain focused on the reason we are here; to preserve and protect our way of life. May the holidays be heartwarming and peaceful for you and your family. God Bless you all! Semper Fidelis, "Proud to Serve"

Allen B.. Master Gunnery Sergeant Regional Command (Southwest) C-1 Chief Camp Leatherneck

Aloha Ms Judy Travis, My name is SGT Kauhane, I'm with the Hawaii Army National Guard and had recently received a stocking for soldiers from you. I would like to say thank you very much for the stocking and all of the goodies that were packed away. Being deployed for the holidays, away from family and friends, is tough. Little gestures, such as these stockings, go a long way to soldiers. Therefore, I am just taking the time to express how grateful I am to have received such heartwarming words and thoughtful gifts. Lastly I would like to know if there is a way to thank a Jack Dendridy? I'm not sure if I am spelling his last name correctly, he is a 7th grader whose card I received with the stocking. Mahalo (thank you in Hawaiian) for all that you do. I wish you the best of holidays. Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas) Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year)

A. KAUHANE, SGT, HIARNG, HHC 1-171 AVN

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Michael M.

Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware, Inc. provided 21 boxes of personalized stockings along with many goodies in the bag, just to our company. Apparently last year, they did this for over 10,000 deployed soldiers. That's insane! Thank you so much for the many, many hours of work you put into this! I have my stocking hanging up already.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jennabel T. and I am currently here in Afghanistan

serving our country. I have received the hand-made Christmas stocking. And I'd like to thank you so much for a little touch of home. It meant a lot to me. I appreciate the blessings and support you have given to our troops here with me also. May God continue to shower you and your family with many blessings every day. Happy Holidays. Be safe, and take care. Sincerely, SPC Jennabel T.

Hello Judy,

My name is Nicole B. I just wanted to send a thank you for the stocking I got today. If you could pass along a thank you to Adam in the 5th grade and St. Elizabeth Elementary School too. I look forward to reading the book and eating the goodies. Thank you again! SPC Nicole B. D Co 1-10 Task Force Tigershark FOB Fenty

Judy,

Thank you very much for the stockings. The 971st has been in Southern Afghanistan for 237 days and have about 65 more to go before we head back to the US. My brave Soldiers are all very appreciative of all the support from the people back home, especially as we move through the holiday season. The stockings will be distributed to the Soldiers on Christmas day.

Best,
 Captain Matt M. Commanding Officer, 971st MCT "Warducks"

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to drop a line to express our gratitude for the Christmas Stockings. We just received them, and all my Marines were thrilled to have a stocking with their name on it! Thank you for all the effort that went into them. It all makes being away from home during the holiday season a little easier. Thanks so much again.

Very Respectfully,
 Major Rachael P. RC(SW) C-1 Operations Officer



(Another great stocking photo from one of our K9 soldiers and his handler.)

Thank you ☺ From Lyca and Samir

Dear Judy Travis,

Thank you for your Holiday Blessings this season. It was a great and pleasant surprise to receive a stocking full of gifts and candy right before Christmas. Please pass on thanks to the West Point Parents Club of Delaware, Delaware Area Rotarians and the Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay Council.

Hello to all our new friends and neighbors in Wilmington, Delaware,

On behalf of my troops of the 831st DDST here in LNK Afghanistan, I would like to thank you for the goodies and the beautiful individualized stocking you sent us. We all appreciate your hard work, support, time, and dedication in putting them all together. Each and every one of you are making the Soldiers Christmas away from home a very special one. It is our pleasure to serve our country and with people like you supporting us, it makes a lot of difference.

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Happy Holidays.

SFC Emma M. Export NCOIC 831st DDST (SDDC) Camp Leatherneck

Ms Travis,
I wanted to thank you for the stockings your organization sent to Afghanistan. Lt.Col. MacC. gave them out to the members of my team tonight and they were especially appreciative of the gesture. The people I work with are either Nepalese or Indian and have no way of getting items like this since they have no mail service available for them. Gestures such as this, brings a smile to their faces and makes me proud of the support from home. I, too, also appreciate the support. It means a great deal to everyone when you are 8,000 miles from home and living in a dustbin. Please thank all those who may have helped and to you, the Elf-in-charge, my thoughts for you and your family during the holidays. Thank you again.

Sincerely, John E., Security Lead AC FIRST/AECOM Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Judy, Thank you for sending my guys the stockings. They were really happy and it brought a touch of home to them. Most of these guys are on their 3rd and fourth deployment, so knowing that they are still being supported back home means the world to them. I attached some pictures of them. Once again I just wanted to say thank you.
1st Lt Johnathan "Johnny" M. Chief Anti-Terrorism & FP Infrasctructure



Merry Christmas Ms. Judy Travis and Stockings for Soldiers,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for the stocking and thinking of us out here in Afghanistan. A lot of my fellow soldiers received your stockings and really appreciate the snacks as well as emergency supply of toothpaste, soap, and toiletries. Any bit helps out here when we are away from home. I hope you guys have a Merry Christmas and great New Year!

John W.

I would like to personally thank you all for my personalized holiday gift package, this is the first time in all my ten years of active service and 3 years contracting have I ever received a personalized package. Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for making my Christmas a special one.
Cirlee M. PD-Systems.

On behalf of B co 1-171 AVN HIARNG, Flight Platoon, Non-Rated Crewmembers, I wish to send our deepest gratitude to everyone who took time off from their daily lives to bring joy to us soldiers here in Afghanistan. For me personally, I was overwhelmed with emotion to see how much effort was put into each gift bag. We have all of them spread out under our Christmas Tree and can't wait to enjoy them. God Bless Everyone!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank You Very Much: Stockings For Soldiers-Delaware, Inc.
West Point Parents Club of Delaware Delaware Area Rotarians
Delaware Korean War Veterans Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay Council, Wilmington, DE
SSG Daniel A. Standardization Instructor B CO 1-171st AVN (GSAB) TF Tigershark / FOB Fenty / JAF

Hi Judy, Thank you and your team for the Stockings For Soldiers for our guys and dogs here at Camp Blackhorse, Afghanistan, it is much appreciated from both dogs and handlers. A merry Xmas for all of your guys.
Thanks, Marius. AMK9



Mrs. Chief Elf in Charge

First and foremost, thank you! We greatly appreciate you and your volunteer's dedication and commitment to us and the Armed Forces. It's nice to know that during this very controversial time in our military's and Nation's history, we are thought of and appreciated.

Please pass our many thanks and season's greeting to you and your many selfless volunteers.

Attached is a photo of the Marines who you have supported and made feel appreciated and loved during the holiday season. (L to R: Nathan, Andrew, Omar, Dean, James, Stephen, Josh, and Robert) We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years. God Bless, 1stLt Fisher

Greetings!

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all very much for the wonderful handmade stockings and all the goodies. You really provided a touch of home for me personally and for all of my Marines at 2D Marine Aircraft Wing It was very kind of you to think of us.

Please pass my gratitude and thanks along to EVERYONE who participated. Thanks so much!

Merry Christmas! Scott

Col Scott J., USMC Commander 2d MAW (Forward) Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Just wanted to take a moment to thank you personally for the goodies in the Christmas stocking.

I'm a recently retired Army veteran of 29 years, now serving the Soldier, and I was always so grateful for people like yourself that take time to do what you do.

Please know that I speak for thousands of us still serving in some capacity that we appreciate each and every one of you, always!

May you and all your loved ones have a safe yet awesome Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God bless you! Tomas

Mrs. Judy Travis,

My name is William B. and I'm a sailor in the United States Navy currently stationed in Manama Bahrain. I can't begin to express the appreciation of receiving the care packages that the children had made for me and my squadron. It's the things like the cards they sent that really hit home for us. This time of year is extremely hard for us being that we're separated from our loved ones. Again we can't begin to thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and letting us know that we are not forgotten. Merry Christmas to you all.



BM2(SW)

• William A. B. USS Sirocco PC Squadron 1 USN

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• **Billy B.**

Just received your care packages that you sent to me and my brothers on the USS Sirocco stationed out here in Bahrain. We all can't begin to thank you and all the the children who wrote those kind Christmas cards. It really means a lot to us. Thank you for thinking of us. Merry Christmas

BM2 (SW)

USS Sirocco USN

Judy,

Thank you!!!! We received the last box of stockings today. What a great program you have and all the soldiers were amazed that there was a stocking with their first name on it! What a special treat.

I can't thank you enough. Merry Christmas, Jim

JAMES K. CW5, AV B Co, 277th ASB Task Force Phoenix 10th Combat Aviation Brigade

Judy Travis,

I just wanted to let you know that I received the box and passed out the stockings to my Marines. I also wanted to thank you. It is greatly appreciated to receive these care packages. It truly puts the "care" back into care packages. To know that American's do support us in our time away is gratifying. I truly do appreciate what you and others like you do. Thank you again.

Respectfully, Cpl Kyle E. V3/7 Comm-Elec Maintenance Supervisor LNK, AFG



SSD Coffee (Chocolate Lab)

Ma'am,

I want to say thank you for the stockings. Coffee, Storm, Scott, and myself thoroughly enjoy all the goodies they had. It truly helps the days go by and gives us a little piece of home. It also helps knowing that we haven't been forgotten. We wish everyone there a Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas.

V/R

James B.

Scott A.



SSD Storm (Golden Lab)

Dear Chief Elf-in-Charge,

Thank you and Stockings for Soldiers so much for the thoughtfulness the organizations which sponsor this program have shown.

Our commander, Lt Col McClaren, called us to her office and presented us with our stockings. It was a pleasant surprise to see our names across the tops. Everything that was included is much appreciated. I especially look forward to the Snowman soup. :)

Warmest Regards and God Bless, Mark L. AMC LTF-4 Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Dearest Judy,

My name is SSG James S. Today I received wonderful personalized stocking full of goodies. I wanted to take this time to say thank you for bringing the holiday spirit to those deployed. Everyone has to have a hero. To you, it is us, the soldier. To a soldier, it is people like you and your team of volunteers that support us. Thank you again from the deepest part of my heart and have a safe and happy holiday.

SSG James S.

Hello,

My name is Sgt Joseph D. assigned to B-Co 601 ASB with 1st ID, in KAF, Afghanistan. I recently received a stocking from your organization and would like to express my gratitude. Your efforts helped bring a little slice of the Christmas spirit to a not so formidable location. Thank you from a grateful Soldier

Mrs. Travis,

Thank you so much for the stockings that were sent to Afghanistan this year for Christmas. We really appreciate the hard work and dedication that you and your team put into sending them out here. It is great to see, and admire your team for your direct support. Thank you again, and have a wonderful Christmas, ours will be brighter thanks to you and your team.

Sincerely, Staff Sergeant Jacob C. / USMC MACS-2 Air Traffic Control Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan

Friends Back Home,

My section just received our personalized stockings and we couldn't be more thankful! It your thoughts and gifts that help myself and everyone here get through this deployment/holidays. Thank you so very much for the stockings! Happy holidays to your family and friends!

SPC Monique H.
PBO Clerk, Regiment PBO

Judy,
I just wanted to send you a quick note of thanks for the stockings that made their way to my Task Force here in southern Afghanistan. They certainly brought joy to the Soldiers across our formation. Please pass along our thanks to all of the volunteers that made this gift possible. It is so comforting to know that there are so many back home supporting us and praying for our safe return.

Best, Lee R. Major Lee R. Executive Officer Task Force Gunfighter Kandahar Airfield

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Mrs Travis et al,
From myself and the Marines from Marine Air Control Group 28 (Fwd), I would like to extend a sincere thank you for the wonderful Christmas stockings. We are so grateful to get the much needed items; it is getting very cold here in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. It is the selfless kindness such as yours that highlights the holidays and brings cheer from 7,000 miles away. Please send our thanks to all involved in this wonderful endeavor. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Sincerely, Major Jimmy S. Hicks United States Marine Corps
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Ma'am On behalf of B Co 601st I would like to thank you for the stocking that we received it is very uplifting to get a treat like this and I could see it in all the Soldier's faces when 1LT Z. handed them to every Soldier. Please thank everyone for all their support and for the gifts they mean so much to all of us.
1SG David S. B Co. 601st ASB

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Mrs. Travis,
All of the boxes have arrived!

As of now, we have all of the stockings hung up on the wall in our building. I will be acting as "Santa" and handing these out on Christmas eve. I'll be sure to take pictures and pass them along. Paul S.

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To our Special Friends... Thank you very much for the stockings. We appreciated the time and efforts you put into supporting the Soldiers of Combined Task Force Dragoon. Americans like you are why we serve. God Bless!
Jefferey C. SFC, USA
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Good Morning All,
On behalf of my Platoon of 55 Marines deployed on here in Afghanistan, we would like to thank you for your unselfish service. We received our stockings and it was such a blessing. You helped make our Christmas. Thank you for everything! Merry Christmas and God bless you all!
Thank you, Sgt Macy B.

Dear Chief Elf-in-Charge, I just received my Christmas stocking and goodies from my commander that you made for me. I just want to thank you for the amazing gift. You don't know how meaningful it is to me and my comrades to know that there are still amazing people like you left in our world. I wish you and all of your family and **elf friends** a very merry and safe Christmas and God bless you.

Samantha D. SGT, USA TF Tigershark Medical NCOIC

Ms. Travis

On behalf of the Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers of Echo Company, TF Tigershark, thank you for your generous care packages. The care packages received here are a much needed boost for the Soldiers as we enter the holiday season.

For a little bit about us, we are a Forward Support Company that provides logistics support to TF Tigershark an aviation attack battalion that has AH64 Apaches, UH60 Blackhawks, CH47 Chinooks and OH58 Kiowa's helicopters. These helicopters provide security and transportation throughout our area of responsibility.



Thank you again for your generous support! Sincerely Jason E. CPT, OD CDR, FSC 1-10 ATK FOB Fenty

Ms. Travis or Chief Elf-in-Charge,

Today I received a personal Christmas Stocking from you all and I wanted to say THANK YOU! It really means a lot when people back home, many of whom we have never met before are still thinking about us while we are out here. It is greatly appreciated, especially during this holiday season when we are away from our loved ones. Please let everyone know that we are truly grateful for all of the support and everything that you all do! Thank you again, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and God Bless!!

Very respectfully, HM1(FMF/EXW) Keoni P. USN Combat Logistics Battalion 6

Dear Ms. Travis:

Our office is in receipt of the stockings you and your elves sent us. I recently relieved Chief Robert and, to my delight, I inherited the stockings intended for her. Please extend my gratitude to all who contributedbut please don't let them know that I started eating the treats in my stockings before Christmas :-). Again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Very respectfully, Rowena T. LNC(SCW), USN Senior Enlisted Leader Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

Hello My name is Darrell W. Me and my MWD Beri received your package yesterday let me tell you that was best care package I ever received I thought it was so neat to make a stocking for me and Beri I just wanted to say thank you and here is a pic of me and Beri enjoying his new toy.

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Judy Travis,

My name is Nate and I received the stocking with goodies and wanted to write and wish you guys a Merry Christmas, and other Happy Holidays from my soldiers at 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Kandahar Afghanistan.

I am a supervisor for a large shop, and we all received gifts, and we are very thankful. There have been much harder times in the war of Afghanistan, and times when things have been very hard on the soldiers. For some of the soldiers, this is their first deployment, and some it is their first holiday away from their family, and for some it is hard. For all of us though there is something touching to have someone thank us, even though we do not expect it. No matter what happens we try our best. The wars are drawing down, and I for one have learned a lot about our great Nation, and its citizens over the course of my 13 year career.....
.....In 2006, I finally got my opportunity to deploy, to an un-expecting location. I was deployed to Ethiopia for 9 months. During this time I was exposed to a wonderful aspect of humanity that I could not have learned without actually experiencing it. The Ethiopians are very kind people, and they are very happy. Their country was hit by a large civil war that cost many lives, and separated the country, many of the rural parts of the country are very poor, and some people spend their entire life's savings to get their families to the capitol city of Addis Ababa just to have the opportunity to beg. That being said, they possess very little opportunity, and very little wealth... but they possess a richness and a depth of character that many people with more opportunity may never know. Their love for family and friends was so sincere and unconditional, their values rich, and their tendency to share and have a sense of community was quintessential to their culture. I learned that the riches of the world are nothing, and that the true riches are things we cannot hold in our hand. During my time there I was able to volunteer at a children's orphanage between some of our operations. I was blessed to give the gift of hope to those small children for a few days by playing with them and giving them hugs. Children do not care what language you speak, or what country you are from, what you do for a living or anything like that. You are their helping hand, you are their companion, if only for a moment, or for a lifetime. They are inspired by people who care for their well being, and are shaped by the example we provide for them.

This is my tenth deployment. I have been to many places that seem solemn, evil, hopeless and God forsaken... but they are not. Soldiers have been through things that perhaps only other soldiers can really understand. But soldiers are no different than anyone else, including those that we battle in conflict.

People who perform charitable events, selfless sacrifice and who believe that they can spread hope, will. I always pray that our efforts will be a light shining through a dark storm. I always hope that others may have a better opportunity for prosperity and happiness for their families, and I will continue to fight the hard fights for this ideal. I always hope that the strength I have been given to carry on can be passed to my soldiers, and passed onto those around us. **I hope that there will always be people like you who believe.**

Please be assured that we will not falter, we will not fail and we will finish the job. We will bring a responsible close to the longest conflict in our history, we will work hard to bring opportunity to those who wish to seize it.

CW2 Nate H.

All,

Just want to show you my appreciation for the Christmas stockings you made for the troops deployed. I have never seen so many personalized stockings during the multiple times I have been away for the holidays. It was very heartfelt and much appreciated. I thank you from the bottom of my heart in spreading the Christmas cheer this holiday.

Willard R. SSG, USA CTF DRAGOON Night Battle NCO

Wilmington Elves,

I just wanted to let you know that your boxes reached our unit here in Gardez, Afghanistan on Christmas Eve.

Everyone, including myself, is grabbing the wonderful blue blankets and all the great food and candy.

We can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. It is difficult being away from home during this time of year and knowing people are thinking of you makes it just a little bit easier.

Again, thank you very much and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Mark C.

Major, Infantry Operations Officer, TF Spartan, CJTF-101 FOB Lightning, Paktiya



Loving Support: HHC received hundreds of care packages from family, friends, and organizations dedicated to supporting troops overseas. Pictured left is a small snapshot of the piles and piles of boxes that Hellraisers sorted through on a daily basis during this holiday season.

Special thanks are due to the following organizations: West Point Parents Club of Delaware, Stockings for Soldiers, numerous Rotary Clubs and Girl Scouts, who all worked together to provide dozens of boxes with stockings and gift bags individually labeled for each Hellraiser. Thanks also to Christmas For Our Troops, Inc (Midland, TX), another incredible group that does so much each year to take care of Americans deployed in harm's way. There are many others and we are thankful for each one. We all appreciate your support!

"Chief Elf-in-Charge" Ms. Travis,

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and greetings from Kandahar!!

I hope this finds you well in Delaware. I am writing to express my profound appreciation for the time, effort, and care that you and many others put into the dozens of packages for our company, HHC/1-8 CAV. While I knew there were care packages on the way, I had no idea that we would receive so many packages prepared with so much love, care, and detail.

Stockings that you prepared are hung up across our headquarters and in Soldiers' barracks rooms. Fleece blankets abound. Children's letters have brought many smiles on Soldiers of all ages. Countless items from the gifts have been distributed across our formation, and I can tell you that Soldiers in Hellraiser Company are really touched by your

great kindness and support.

Soldiers here remain in good spirits during this holiday season, and your generosity has played a role in helping to maintain our morale. Thank you so much.

Below is the link for our company Facebook page. I will be posting our December newsletter soon and will send it to you via email as well, so you and your fellow volunteers may get a better idea of the team and Soldiers you've supported.

God Bless and have a safe and memorable Christmas and holiday season.

Regards,

Jim C. CPT, AR Commander, HHC/1-8 CAV Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan



Dear Elf Judy -

Greetings from Djibouti, Africa! First, I apologize for sending an email rather than a note, but we are in the middle of a "very busy time" with folks working around the clock. I didn't want to delay writing as your package of holiday cheer was such a treat.

The stockings arrived here today, Christmas Eve, and I have to tell you it was a real morale booster! Each of us opened our stockings with delight, compared books, music, candies and other treats. We are so appreciative of all your efforts and the contributions from our fellow Americans in Wilmington, Delaware.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, Elf Judy! You made this holiday away from home brighter for the Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in the Staff Judge Advocate's Office, Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa (CJTF - HOA).

Best to you and yours this Christmas.

Jean K. CAPT, JAGC, USN Staff Judge Advocate, C-JTF HOA Djibouti, Africa

Judy, Thank you so much for the blankets....you guys rock! I have been freezing at night here but not anymore! Happy Holidays! J.T.

CPT, US Army Civil Affairs Brigade S9/ANSF-Development TAAC-SE, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th MTN DIV



Judy and all -

Thank you so much for all the work you put into the care package you sent us. We really, truly appreciate your kindness - especially during the holiday season when thoughts of home can be overwhelming at times.

Just so you know where your fleece blankets and stockings wound up, we are an infantry brigade from the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York located in the mountains of Eastern Afghanistan.

I've attached a photo of us wearing the knit caps you included with the blankets.

God Bless and Merry Christmas,

Thane K.

Hi Judy,

Just wanted to let you know that my unit has received all the stockings that you sent us. They started trickling in a little over a week ago. We got our last shipment two days ago. The offices around my Battalion Headquarters are decorated with everyone's stocking! They were a big hit.

Thanks for all you do to support the troops. You've definitely brought us some holiday cheer from back home.

Frank B.

Mrs./Ms. Travis,

I wanted to personally thank you for the stocking I received today. I am currently stationed here in Africa. I have been away from my son for the past 3 X-mas holidays. And receiving this gift and your support makes the holidays a little easier. My son also thanks you for the support you show to his daddy. Thank you again. And thanks to Heather for the card inside. Best wishes.

Adam

Judy Travis aka "Chief Elf-in-Charge",

On behalf of the men and women of the Air Force's 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron in Djibouti Africa, I would like to say thank you for the Christmas stocking we received. The stockings and supplies are a tremendous blessing for my Airmen. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of our new friends from Wilmington, Delaware and surrounding areas. Some of my Airmen have been stationed at Dover AFB and were especially touched as they fondly reminisced of your current home area. I wanted to wish you a very Merry Christmas and once again say thank you. May the Good Lord bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Alex S. MSgt 81 ERQS/SEL/Production Superintendent

**Thank you so much for the stocking,
it really made my day :)**



Good morning,

It is Christmas here in Afghanistan now and I wanted to send you a huge thank you for all the stockings for soldiers goodies we received here at Camp Bastion. It was very much appreciated. It would be much appreciated if you could forward this thank you on the all the folks who contributed as we don't have any addresses for them. I've included some pictures as well.

Thanks so much God bless SMSgt Lucille P. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas Friends!

Here we are at Camp Bastion so far from home and then we receive these awesome goodies and stockings full of things we can use and really appreciate. As a token of our appreciation here



are some pictures of the groups here. Our small group consists of Tennessee & Louisville National Guard as well as Delaware, Alaska, & New Jersey active duty folks - we are in the 651st Logistics Readiness Flight Picture. We wanted to send this in appreciation of your sending the stockings & goodies to us and supporting our military everywhere.

Ms. Travis,

We received stockings from your group today and wanted to know how grateful we are for being remembered with such a kind gift. My Soldiers especially appreciated the **nice socks** (quality socks are hard to come by here) and my sweet-tooth thanks you for the candy.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas, Lt. Gregg B. 971st MCT

Judy Travis,

Ma'am. Your blankets landed here in Kandahar at TF 1-1 ARB. We are a Battalion Aviation Task-force here in Afghanistan, covering RC-S and other areas. I always try and drop a line to the folks who send us stuff so they know we appreciate you sending us things. The thought is almost more important than the deed. Holidays are especially difficult for the soldiers here, as everyone here is missing out on time with their families back there. Having SKYPE and such is great, but still not the same as being back home for the holidays. Getting chilly here so much appreciated. I'm sure you'll hear from some of our other soldiers if you have not already.

Thanks! CW3 CARSON S TF TACOPS TF 1-1 ARB "GUNFIGHTERS!"

Good afternoon Mrs. Travis,

I would just like to take a moment to say how appreciative the 606th MCT was to have care packages sent to us! Everyone was surprised when they saw all the goodies. It's never easy being away from home during the holidays and you, as well as your "elves," have made it a very special Christmas. I am actually from a small town in PA, so when I saw who had sent the care packages, I just knew I had to say thank you ASAP. It really meant a lot to our soldiers here and boosted morale and I think a lot of our soldiers realized that there are a lot of people back home supporting us out here and that they aren't alone. So thank you.

CPL Samantha G. Staging Lanes NCOIC 606th Movement Control Team "WILDCARDS"

Judy Travis,

Thanks much for your presents for all the guys. My senior enlisted, MSgt Chris W. handed them out to our 62 Marine and UK Soldier team here in Afghanistan. Your efforts and thoughts were very welcomed. The guys had a day off after continuous training of the Afghan soldiers and were very appreciative of the gifts. The presents were handed out to our team and made a potentially depressing day being away from their families into a happier one. They all were very grateful for you all the efforts and support from the families back home. Your gifts made a difference to both US and UK soldiers alike. I have been on 8 combat deployments and at least half of them during Christmas and usually out forward in the thick of things and I have never seen so much support and gifts during the holidays. I thank you again for making their day a better one. Please pass our appreciation to all who helped and sent gifts out.



PS,
I attached a newsletter and picture of the team we sent home recently.

Very Sincerely, Major Ernest A. Regional Corps Battle School, Afghanistan Regional Command(SW), Camp Leatherneck



.....
Thank you all for the stockings and gifts. The blankets, candy, flashlights, toiletries, and everything else. I sent a hand written letter as well, should get there in 2 weeks or so. We're doing well here, the food is good, weather has been nice. SSgt Pettigrew and I are both nurses, but our job over here is more related to collecting data that is used to better treat injured soldiers in the future. Thank you again. May you all have a wonderful Christmas...
Merry Christmas J. Powell , Capt
.....

Mrs. Travis,

Thank you and your team so much for taking the time to provide service members with a gift for the holidays. It is amazing how something so simple goes such a long way. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and kindheartedness are greatly appreciated. May you and your "elves" have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Very Sincerely, Oscar C., LT **U.S. Coast Guard**

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for the great stockings made for all of us in our unit. The Marines were in high spirits after receiving the awesome stockings full of great assorted items. Thank you for the kind and thoughtful gesture of support and providing us with so much morale. I would like to wish everyone involved in sending us a "little touch of home" a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SSgt David S. Maintenance Management Chief Combat Logistics Company Maintenance Platoon

We thank you for the stockings. You have made this day a special one.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

1SG Leon G. C.Co.
1-294

(These Soldiers are from Guam.)



Judy

My entire company received a stocking from your organization this Christmas. I just wanted to let you know how much each soldier appreciated your efforts. I have not seen some of their faces light up like that in a long time. Each of us really found joy in getting a stocking personalized just for us. The holidays are difficult away from our family and loved ones but your gift truly made a difference and will always be remembered. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do, it truly means so much.

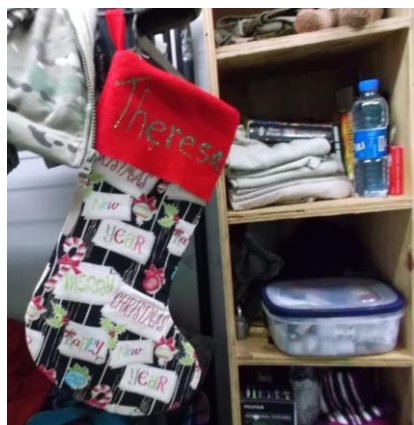
Cathleen R. 1LT, EN Platoon Leader 82nd ESC TF Bayonet

Ma'am

This week I received the boxes of stockings on behalf of 76th EN CO/19th EN BN which were sent from your organization. Just wanted to send a quick thank you and a note of appreciation for all the work that was put into making and sending these goodies. It is always sooo nice to receive a little holiday cheer for Christmas. Thank you so much for what your organization has done!!!

1LT Marcie N.

PS: I will try to send pictures in the near future of the goodies but I've attached a few pics of my soldiers on the job site



Theresa G. Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware, Inc.

January 14, 2013

I know this is late, but I wanted to thank you for your stockings this year! My Company all received them, and they really brightened our holiday season. I am actually born and raised from northeast Pennsylvania, my family has connections to the Girl Scouts, and I missed my son's first Christmas this year. Your little touch of home really made my holiday, and brought cheer to us all. So thank you!

Love, Theresa



The 81 ERQS here in Djibouti Africa would like to thank everyone who was involved in the stocking we received. I know your group realize the holidays can be a gloomy time of the year and really hard on the younger troops. Your efforts brought a lot of smiles and enjoyment; again we thank your whole group for the efforts I have attached a squadron photo we took.

MSgt Robert B.
US Air Force

Good day Ma'am,

I just wanted to say thanks to you and your team for taking the time to send us the Christmas care packages. It brightened everyone's day for sure. It's funny to see the Marines transition from a real mission back to a being big kids again trying to find their names on the stockings. Thanks for your support to the Marines.

GySgt Taylor

Collection Manager 1st Radio BN



Theresa Gustafson Stockings For Soldiers - Delaware, Inc.

January 14, 2013

I know this is late, but I wanted to thank you for your stockings this year! My Company all received them, and they really brightened our holiday season. I am actually born and raised from northeast Pennsylvania, my family has connections to the Girl Scouts, and I missed my son's first Christmas this year. Your little touch of home really made my holiday, and brought cheer to us all. So thank you!

Love,
Theresa

Thank you!!

You guys are amazing!

Will send more pictures soon

Ann H.





Ms. Judy Travis,

I would just like to thank you and everyone who helps you put together Stockings For Soldiers. It really means a lot that there are people back home thinking of and supporting us. This was by-far the most elaborate, thoughtful, and personalized care package we received throughout this deployment. The stockings and blankets were a great touch! It is always great to see letters from the kids. The guys are writing back to them as I type this and we will get the letters sent off tomorrow. You should be seeing them in a couple of weeks.....

It truly warms my heart that Americans like yourself and these children support us as much as

you do. I think I speak for all of my fellow soldiers when I say that you all are the ones who make us proud to be Americans.

I can't thank you all enough! Sincerely, SSG William (Bill) M.

.....
Hello,

My name is Chief Warrant Officer Charles M. I am currently deployed to a remote location in Jordan. I would like to thank you for the wonderful holiday Christmas stocking I received. It truly was a surprise and It made my Christmas day. As soldiers, we always hear "Thanks for everything you do". Well I owe you a thanks for this wonderful surprise. To everyone in your organization I say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charles M. CW2, AD Tactical Director HHD 1-62 ADA Azraq AB, Jordan

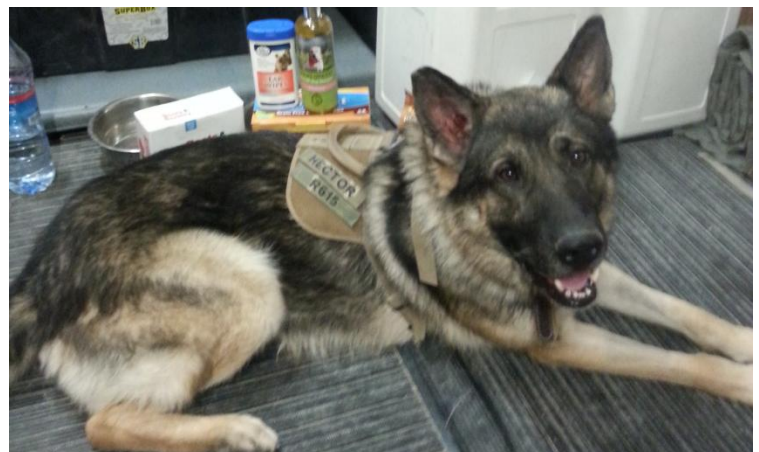
.....
Judy,

Please pass along our sincerest appreciations to you and your Stocking Team! The CJ8 team out here in Kabul received them a week ago and they were a blast to open at Christmas! We are truly grateful to have organizations like yours back home. Enjoy the rest of the holidays and the upcoming new year.

Michael H. Capt, USAF (OF-2) ANP/RA Budget Team Lead

.....
I wanted to say thank you so much for the amazing care package for myself and Hector, we will enjoy every bit of it!

Spc. Zachary S.
2nd Calvary Regiment
TEDD Team
Kandahar, Afghanistan



Judy,

I really want to thank you for the Christmas Stockings. It really is a morale booster for the Soldiers here in Afghanistan while deployed away from home. Most of these Soldiers are first time deployers and are still kind of shell shocked. For them to be able to receive gifts and something to open on Christmas day was very special and again I would like to thank you and your staff for taking the time out of your holiday season to help support the Soldiers. Thank you again.

CPT Jason G. CPT, CM HHC CDR TF Spartan

Hello,

I was fortunate to receive one of the Christmas Stockings. It definitely brightened my day! Thanks to all the people in Delaware and Pennsylvania for their hard work on this great gift.

Big Texas Hugs back to ya'll!!!!

Respectfully Yours, Bobby H. Major, USAF Combined Joint Task Force - Horn Of Africa

Ma'am,

I wanted to send a sincere thank you for the hand-made Christmas Stockings my unit received.

I'm the Commanding Officer for a unit of Marines and Sailors located at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. I witnessed the opening of many of these stockings and I can say the troops enjoyed every item as indicated by the smiles on their faces. Please pass on my gratitude and heartfelt thank you for all the volunteers who put these stockings together. I'm sure it was no easy feat but we do appreciate your time and support. The love we felt from your organization's efforts has made this Christmas away from our family and friends much more tolerable. I'm grateful for each and every one of you.

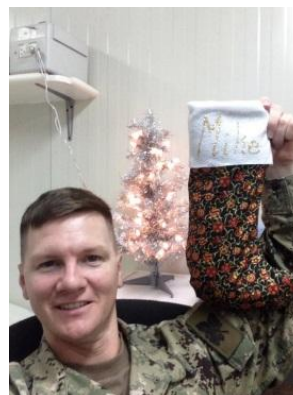
Merry Christmas and Semper Fidelis, LtCol C. E. Smith Commanding Officer

A sincere thank you from Pedro Maintenance, Bastion Afghanistan. Your stockings brightened our spirits and this picture.



Mike A.

Just want to say thank you Stockings for Soldiers for the stocking that you sent me. Made my day



Good afternoon,

**Merry
Christmas!**

I am writing to express my gratitude for the awesome care packages that my Marines and I received this holiday season from your organization. Everyone here enjoyed opening them and I can



honestly say that your hard work paid off because the look on their faces was priceless and I do believe that for a split second, they were elsewhere vice thousands of miles away from family and friends.

Thank you for showing such amazing support and know that even though not all greeting cards may get replied to, they were all read and liked very much. Have a wonderful holiday season and continue doing what you do, for you are truly America's unsung heroes! Semper Fidelis.

Very Respectfully,

SSgt Corral, R.

USMC Marine Wing Support Squadron 372 Airfield Operations Company Fuels Staff NCOIC/Accountant

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Rose,

Thank you very much for volunteering and for your kind card. It is our pleasure and honor to serve our country. Your words are an inspiration to all of us and it means a lot to us that you have taken time out of your day to write your letter. Also, I especially appreciate all of the items in the Christmas package. A nice toothbrush is always great to have! Thank you again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

1stLt Nicholas R. P. United States Marine Corps 1st Combat Engineer Battalion

Hi Judy!

Thank you! I recently checked into Camp Bastion Afghanistan... Long and exhausting trip... On the way to berthing, they asked me if I would like a stocking, took the one with my name on it and just felt tremendous gratitude for the gesture. Got to the bed, somewhat unpacked, but went thru the stocking. It was all the stuff I needed and was craving. Thank you!!!! Truly do appreciate you and your team taking the time to make and send us these. Really made my day! Still enjoying the treats! I will always appreciate your kindness and generosity!!!

I'm from Northeastern PA, near Scranton. The card was signed by Rachel in Delaware, please also send my thanks!!!!
Thanks again Steve

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Troopers of HHT 6/9 CAV, deployed to Sinai, Egypt, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the stockings that you have sent to us. It truly made our Christmas better. Your willingness to help out wherever there is a need is greatly appreciated. It's that kind of flexibility and dedication that will help this company grow to its full potential. Your effort continues to help things run smoothly, and I really appreciate your support. Your assistance has been invaluable to us during this holiday season as our Soldiers without families have no one to look out for them. Your gift has touched the hearts of not only the Soldiers that received the stockings but the unit as whole. Our heartfelt thanks can never hope to show the level of appreciation that we feel, but we sincerely hope that you will accept our meager gift anyway.

JACOB K. SGT, USA HHT Training NCO US BATT MFO

Dear Ms. Travis,

On behalf of the Sailors and Navy civilians of Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific, Detachment Afghanistan, I'd like to thank you for all that you sent with the stockings and for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. We are a small team performing in-depth structural repairs to military aircraft at Camp Leatherneck and, as needed, at other bases around the country of Afghanistan. The stockings put smiles on all of our faces and we enjoyed the performances of your Middle School students recorded on the DVD. It is heartwarming to know that we have the support of exceptional Americans, like all of you in Wilmington, Delaware, especially as we spend the holidays overseas. Thank you for taking the time to remember us and for sharing a bit of your holiday spirit via the treats, snacks, books, and personal essentials!

I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Commander Matthew B.
Officer-in-Charge, Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific, Afghanistan Detachment Camp Bastion, Afghanistan

Judy,

Thank you for the stockings you sent me and my company. Each Soldier who received one was brought a smile when they saw their own name on a gift they weren't expecting. You and the people in your organization make deployments seem shorter and make us all feel a bit closer to home.

Respectfully,

Kyle S. CPT, AV Assistant Operations Officer 1-1 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion "Gunfighters"

Judy,

Now that the holiday season has passed and hopefully things have slowed down for you, I wanted to write you a long overdue note. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for what you and your organization have done. Your generosity and thoughtfulness exceeded all expectations I could have possibly had. The amount of effort that you and your volunteers put into the creation of the fantastic personalized stockings is truly amazing, not to mention all of the extra goodies in the bag.

Storing over 20 boxes of stockings in my small office made it challenging to get in and out, but I was able to ensure everyone in the battalion received his or her own personal stocking before Christmas. I could tell by their reactions that each soldier was genuinely happy to receive a stocking, and many could not believe that anyone would go to the trouble of writing their names on the stocking, let alone spelling it correctly.

The holidays are especially difficult for those who are used to a large holiday production, and while we tried to make the atmosphere here as festive as possible, it can be difficult to feel the Christmas spirit sometimes. After distributing the stockings, I was pleased to see them prominently hung up in almost every work area, the final touch to small Christmas trees and a few plywood fireplaces. My soldiers and I appreciate support from organizations such as yours because it helps us to continue to work hard and complete our mission. I cannot thank you enough.

Please express my sincerest gratitude as well to the West Point Parents Club, Delaware Area Rotarians, the Girls Scouts of Chesapeake Bay, especially Girl Scout and Brownie Troop 26, and all of your other elf volunteers that made your impressive operation possible. I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season, and I wish you all the best in the new year.

Sincerely,
Andrew Z.

THANK YOU SO MUCH ...

to our very special Deployed Assistant Elf, Lt. Briana B. (On right) for all her wonderful assistance this year. Lt. Briana collected all the names and addresses of over 5,500 Marines and Soldiers at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan. Because of her great assistance, we could make sure that they all received one of our special personalized stockings. She helped to bring so many smiles to Camp Leatherneck. We are so grateful for all her wonderful help.



“Well Done”

and

Thank You so much,

Lt. Briana ♥



(Thank You to all our troops for sending us so many wonderful great messages of their appreciation. These emails serve as an inspiration for **Stockings For Soldiers** to continue to try to “make a positive difference” in their lives. We want our troops to know that they have not been forgotten by the American people.)

