

Local Support for Overseas Troops

The Virginia State Board of Elections (SBE) conducts an annual care package drive for troops serving overseas. During the last two years, the James City County Voter Registration and Elections Office and volunteer Officers of Election have joined in donating much appreciated items for the dedicated and deserving men and women of our armed forces. SBE has received numerous thank you letters from the grateful recipients. SBE plans to send more packages and welcomes anyone who would like to participate. This effort is conducted without using government funds.

In order to make it more convenient for Historic Triangle area residents to participate, the James City County General Registrar will accept donations throughout the year at:

Voter Registration and Elections Office
James City County Office Complex
101 Mounts Bay Rd, Building B
Mon-Fri 8-5

Recommended Items

Items to Avoid

Letters & Pictures

Care Packages for the Troops!

Recommended items: (make sure liquids/gels are put into zip-loc plastic bags)

Physical Hygiene:

- Shaving cream
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Kleenex/Wet wipes
- Nail clipper/file
- Ramón blades
- Deodorant (male & female)
- Lotion/Hand sanitizer
- Handkerchiefs
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Lip balm

Other Items:

- Crossword/Sudoku books
- Seek-a-word Puzzles
- Sunscreen
- Packaged health snacks
(Energy bars, trail mix, dried fruit, jerky, crackers)
- Playing cards
- Writing stationery
- Travel size games
(that DO NOT require batteries)
- Sunshades
- Sports balls
(Volleyball, soccer, softball, Nerf balls, hacky sack)
- Prepaid phone cards
- Padded socks
- Drink mix packets
(Gatorade/Kool Aid)
- Frisbees; flying rings
- Cards
“I love you” & “I miss you” cards
- Candy
- Twin sheet sets

Humanitarian Aid:

- Children’s shoes
- Coats
- Shampoo
- Blankets
- Toothpaste & brushes
- Crayons
- Diapers (cloth)
- Bath soap
- Pens

Items to avoid:

- ✓ Pork or pork by-products
- ✓ Bulk quantities of religious materials, especially, contrary to the Islamic faith
- ✓ Obscene materials; anything with pornographic, sexual, or nude/semi-nude content
- ✓ Political materials

Wow,
Thank you so
much for your
support, we miss
Virginia, hope
to see you in
the Fall.

God Bless
Chaplain Jacobs



CH (CPT) John W. Jacobs

HSC, 276th EN BN

FOB ORGUN-E

APO AE 09311

Greetings from Afghanistan,

I want to first let you know how appreciative we are of the package(s) you have sent our way. I am one of the Chaplains that serve here and have been privileged to serve these young men and women, some of them face extreme dangers all day long.

Your contributions that have made it here to FOB Orgun-E have been distributed or sent to one of the smaller FOBs or COPs in our area of operations. Word gets back on how excited and appreciative our soldiers are when these items arrive and are handed out. As a parent of all adult children most of these guys and gals are like children to me and I see the sincerity in which they perform their jobs. You as fellow Americans are being represented well.

You have chosen to make a difference in the lives of these brave men and women and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May the Lord richly bless you!



Sorry it took me so long to finally send you a long overdue thank you. But thank you for everything you have sent us sir. Everything is truly a blessing. Every package you have sent has lifted up all of our platoon's spirits and it is highly appreciated. Well things have been going very well for our platoon. I have enclosed a picture with the majority of the personnel in our platoon with Toby Keith. He came to our FOB and sung some songs and signed some autographs. We even got him to sign a 155mm High Explosive round. But once again thanks for everything you sent us. I'll keep you posted on the platoon and I'll be sending you updates and more pictures of us firing the big guns and everything. P.S. Lil Smoke

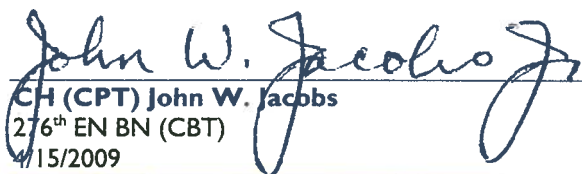
john.jacobsjr@us.army.mil or airbornejacobs@aol.com

Chaplain Jacobs,

Thank you so much for the boxes that you sent. The boxes were right on target as it seemed if it was Christmas. The guys were especially happy to receive pillows, movies, and the Girl Scout cookies. Thanks Again A6

You have and continue to make a difference in the lives of these young warriors, future leaders of our Nation. I can't thank you enough!

May 25th will be a day in which we remember those who have gone on, some have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and I would like to encourage you to attend a Memorial Day service where you live. We will as there are Memorials established on every FOB, COP, Airfield, etc. for us to remember the brothers and sisters who have died here in Afghanistan.


CH (CPT) John W. Jacobs
276th EN BN (CBT)
11/15/2009

Items for future mailings US Soldiers: 1. Shaving Cream 2. Razor blades 3. Tooth Paste 4. Shampoo 5. "I love you" & "I miss you" cards 6. Deodorant (male & female) 7. Feminine Hygiene Products 8. Beef Jerky 9. Candy 10. Twin Sheet Sets 11. Items you would want if you were camping for a year.

Humanitarian Aid Items: 1. Children's shoes 2. Blankets 3. Diapers (cloth) 4. Coats 5. Toothpaste + brushes 6. Bath Soap 7. Shampoo 8. Crayons 9. Pens

"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions – bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Outgoing Boxes!

CH (CPT) John W. Jacobs

HSC, 276th EN BN

FOB ORGUN-E

APO AE 09311



Greetings from Afghanistan,

I want to first let you know how appreciative we are of the package(s) you have sent our way. I am one of the Chaplains that serve here and have been privileged to serve these young men and women, some of them face extreme dangers all day long.

Studies show there is a direct correlation in recovery for traumatic events to how well a soldier "feels cared for"; your boxes and cards demonstrate that we are cared for.

The pictures below are from left to right: three Sergeant Majors Memorial Day on FOB Orgun-E; Devotions from Strength for Service at FOB Sharana; and sorting cards at the Chapel on FOB Orgun-E. Everyone appreciates what you are doing for us.



Sir, I am a medic from FOB Apache and I would just like to thank you so much for the care packages you sent to us! We appreciate you thinking of us and sending us the packages! We hope all is well in your section of the country! Thank you again!
Amber Doll, SSgt, USAF

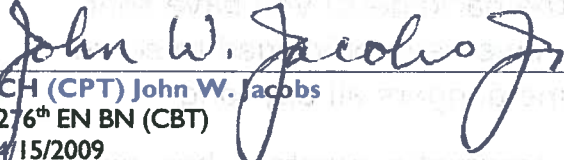
Sir! Thank you so much for all of the packages you have sent here! They have been extremely well received! Everyone is always overjoyed to see them and get the goodies! I sent the thank you cards out today to all of the nice people who have contributed to the boxes. Again, thank you so much for everything that you do! God Bless and stay safe!
SGT Claralynn Koceja, FOB Shank
Chaplain Jacobs,

John.jacobsjr@us.army.mil or airbornejacobs@aol.com

Thank you so much for the boxes that you sent. The boxes were right on target as it seemed if it was Christmas. The guys were especially happy to receive pillows, movies, and the Girl Scout cookies. Thanks Again, Zerok COP

You have and continue to make a difference in the lives of these young warriors, future leaders of our Nation. I can't thank you enough!

"The morale of soldiers comes from three things: a feeling that they have an important job to do, a feeling that they are trained to do it well, and a feeling that their work is appreciated and recognized." Gen Bruce Clarke


CH (CPT) John W. Jacobs
276th EN BN (CBT)
4/15/2009

Items for future mailings US Soldiers: 1. Shaving Cream 2. Razor blades 3. Tooth Paste 4. Shampoo 5. "I love you" & "I miss you" cards 6. Deodorant (male & female) 7. Feminine Hygiene Products 8. Beef Jerky 9. Candy 10. Twin Sheet Sets 11. Baby Wipes 12. Items you would want if you were camping for a year.

Humanitarian Aid Items: 1. Children's shoes 2. Blankets 3. Diapers (cloth) 4. Coats 5. Toothpaste + brushes 6. Bath Soap 7. Shampoo 8. Crayons 9. Pens 10. Soccer Balls 11. Stuffed animals

Items NOT to send: Please do not send magazines, books and Bibles. We have plenty here currently and they are heavy since we get resupplied at most locations by helicopter. I also have hundreds of Bibles of all types, do not fear. There are exceptions to the books, but please email me about them first.

"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions – bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality." Franklin D. Roosevelt



The end of another day;

FOB Lagman.

Letter from Afghanistan

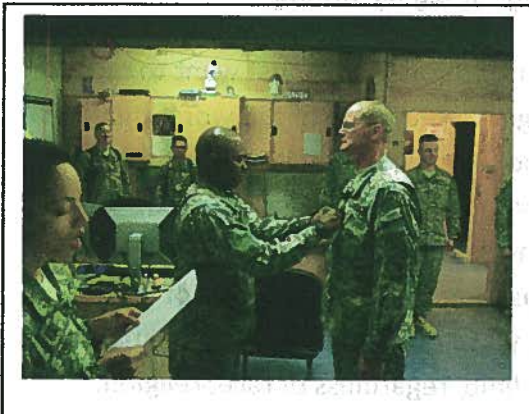
some benefit of being twice the age of our soldiers, having weathered some of the storms of life and challenging these youngsters to delay the decision and fight the minds demand for immediate gratification!

SPC Jones is looking forward to returning the United States here in a few weeks for some much needed R&R leave and I will soon follow a few weeks after him. The battalion staff must coordinate the leave schedule to make sure we have the appropriate people here at all times, sometimes this is a huge challenge as Red Cross messages are received and some soldiers need to head home early and of course there is more to this than placing a soldier on a plane for the States. We are at the half-way point in our deployment and are looking toward Fall as a marvelous time of the year.

PRO DEO ET PATRIA

LOVE JOHN

CH (CPT) John Jacobs
HSC, 276th EN BN (CBT)
FOB ORGUN-E
APO AE 09311



Promotion to Captain



Jack & Emily (Grand children)



Adam & Lauren)

Letter from Afghanistan

28 June 2009

Well I have the crazy idea of starting this letter like the last, however I won't! We are only a few days away from July and with that July 4th and the celebration of our Independence Day. Maybe you would do me a favor and sing our National Anthem on that day for us. Some here will undoubtedly have the opportunity to see "the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air" and to our enemies chagrin they will "give proof through the night that our flag was still be here!"

The weather here has been interesting over the past few weeks, with the mornings being clear and for the most part cloudless and as the day heats up the thunder heads begin to build eventually producing a shower. I was just outside watering, what I hope will be, flower producing plants and I can smell the "rain" in the air. I haven't found the answer yet, but have wondered if there are tornadoes here? Some of the storms seem as though they have the potential to produce some severe winds and torrential down pours. We even had quarter size hail the other week and the temperature went for 74 to 54 in approximately 20 minutes. SPC Jones and I sat out on our little porch and watched the storm, there was a fair amount of lightning, since all the roofs here are corrugated tin or steel the sound was awesome, it would have been nice to sleep too.

The flower seeds that I have planted are slowly growing, the flower pot, Diana, my wife sent is doing much better, mostly because of the nutritious soil that the pot came with. The flower bed is a mixture of sandy soil (local), shredded paper (address labels) and coffee grounds all mixed together. Diana also sent me Miracle Grow; it doesn't work as well as when we are in good ole topsoil! You don't realize how good you have it until you don't have it anymore! Having grown up in the farmlands of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, knowing that we could scatter the seeds however and the plants would grow and now being in a country where it must be a struggle to live off the land, what a contrast. There are farms here because we see the fields as we fly around.

My two previous letters had a sharpness to them as I spoke of our fallen comrades and I just want to own that and say it is difficult to see and be part of, life is so precious and here we get to see some of the worst things that are found in humanity and, contrastingly enough, the very best that can be found in humanity. An example would be a local Afghan man is brought in with a gunshot wound to his leg, severing the femoral artery and wouldn't you know it his blood type is A/B- and he needs blood. Guess what the American Red Cross isn't here on OE, so a call goes out for donors and the American Soldiers stands up and steps forward. I spoke to one of the young men as he made his way to the aid station to help save a life! Hopefully you won't get tired of how amazed I am at the intensity these surgeons, nurses, and staff work to preserve life and limb, regardless of race, religion, color, creed or they are Anti Afghan Forces.

So much continues to happen while we are here, my youngest son recently was married and his new wife will soon join him in Alaska where he is stationed. New births have been reported throughout the battalion; fortunately some of the spouses were able to be on leave for the birth of their children. And of course with life there is death and we have seen our share of that within the BN. It is not unusual to see several soldiers a week who are struggling with being far from home during one of these joys or concerns. Knowing that there is another person willing to travel with you in the midst of despair or during the "unknown" moments in life, where their years of wisdom have not replaced your ignorance of youth, making the "all or nothing" choices of life. There is John.jacobsjr@us.army.mil
airbornejacobs@aol.com