



Brandon's brother, Aaron, in training before deployment to Iraq

Help the Troops Serving in Iraq and Afghanistan! MTC Care Package Collection

In a recent phone call with our son, Brandon, who is serving in Afghanistan with the USMC he shared with us that they have very little water, hence bathing was non-existent and that they were dirty all the time from the 'soot-like' dust that creeps into everything, especially their boots. Imagine the condition of their socks! He explained their socks are so awful that they prefer simply throwing them out rather than trying to wash them with their uniforms. His message, 'Send socks'! He then added, Mom, please send another care package soon! Lex and Bonnie Fogg M001812

I thought I would reach out and share his request with you. During our upcoming International Rally at Goshen we will be holding a Care Package drive for our Service men and women. This is a great opportunity to let our young men and women know that we care. Even if you are not attending the rally, we hope you will get involved! Collection boxes will be at the rally registration.

If you would like to send a care package, here are some suggestions. The summer months are the perfect time to start collecting. Visiting the dentist? Ask if they can spare some toothbrushes. Seeing the eye doctor, perhaps he can share some eye wash solutions. Every little bit will help.

Our goal is collect and mail to our troops as many boxes as we can. We will be using the USPS flat box rate of \$11.20 for each box which allows us to stuff each box as full as possible regardless of the weight. We will also have a collection for the postage.

A couple of notes:

- All items must be new and in the original sealed packaging (except recreation items as noted below). Homemade food items cannot be accepted.
- Pork and pork by-products are not allowed to be shipped to most Middle East combat locations.
- Single-serving package sizes are preferred; large packages won't stay fresh and are harder to ship. A good rule of thumb: If you can stuff it in your pocket and it's not going to spoil or melt during the summer season, it's a good thing to send!
- We cannot ship liquids. However, they enjoy the flavors to add to their drinking water. The pre-sweetened or sugar-free flavoring mixes in small or single-serving packages.

Most Requested Items:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks and non-perishable food items | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable cameras |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna lunch kits | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries (AA or AAA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual serving size <u>cans</u> or dried fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of support. Letters from you, from children, or from your business, office, school, or other organization in support of our troops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts, trail mix and other healthy snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> AT&T Global Pre-Paid Military Calling Cards, calling cards to work in Iraq and Afghanistan must be these specific cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-sweetened flavored beverage mixes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undershirts (white, short sleeve) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks (boot cut, black, green, or white) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes and chewing tobacco, Copenhagen and Skoal | |

Give a Soldier a Break from Ration Foods:

(in addition to the items above:)

- Blister-pack Gum, Lifesavers, Mints
- Power bars, protein bars, nutrition bars
- Single-serving bags of snacks, crackers, chips, snack mixes
- Pop Tarts, cereal bars, "milk & cereal" bars, granola bars
- Ramen Noodles, Cup-O-Noodles serving cups
- Ravioli and other canned ready-to-eat meals
- Canned sardines, smoked oysters
- Torengos® nacho-style chips and canned nacho cheese dip
- Jalapeno Velveeta® and crackers
- Taco Bell® Sauce Packets
- Seasoning salts, flavoring salts
- Assorted hard candies
- Coffee, coffee mixes, tea
- Hot cocoa mix
- Lemonade mix, Kool-Aid mix, Tang, Iced Tea mix
- Gatorade mix (powdered only)
- Crystal Light (or other brand) "On The Go" flavor packets
(these come in a box of several sleeves of flavoring that can be added to a 16-20 oz. water bottle)
- Sugar and creamer packets for coffee

Give a Soldier a Shower & a Break from the Grueling Sun:

- Baby wipes (alcohol-free)
- Liquid body wash (no pump-style dispensers)
- Liquid hand sanitizers (no pump-style dispensers)
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste (in hard-side tubes rather than traditional tubes)
- Lotion (no pump-style dispensers)
- Sunblock
- Nail clippers
- Shampoo and Deodorant
- Throat Lozenges
- Eye Drops (for dry eye, not redness)
- Blistex, Chapstick, Carmex (sticks)
- Aspirin, Motrin, Tylenol, Pain Relievers (small containers)
- Saline spray/drops for sensitive nasal passages
- Q-tips
- Disposable razors, Mach3 Razors & replacement blades
- Kleenex (travel-size packets)

Send a Soldier's Feet Some TLC:

- Cotton socks, crew style, black, green, or white
- Boot liners/insoles
- Odor eaters for boots
- Lotrimin AF or Tinactin for athletes foot (tubes of ointment or cream, or the bottle of drops; no aerosol spray type)
- Medicated Foot Powder, Medicated Foot Swabs
- Moleskin (for pads on sore feet, you'll find it with Dr. Scholl's type things at WalMart or drug stores)
- 72" Bootlaces (brown or tan preferred)

Give a Soldier Some Fun & Entertainment:

- Magazines – Sports or car, outdoor or hunting and comic books
- Reading material, paperbacks
- Hacky Sacks, Tennis Balls
- Deck of cards
- Hand-held games
- Gameboy Advance games
- Movie DVDs (new or used; original only)
- Music CDs (new or used; original only)
- Portable DVD Players
- Portable CD Players

Help a Soldier Stay in Touch with Loved Ones:

- Disposable cameras
- Envelopes, paper, pens
- Notebooks (a size they can keep in a pocket and keep dry)
- Drawing pads, Small, blank journals
- Blank birthday and holiday cards that can be signed by the Marine and sent back to family members.