

HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As we spend time this holiday season with friends and family, it is important we don't forget those who are not able to see their friends and family over the holidays - our overseas military personnel. Thousands of Americans are stationed overseas this holiday season and will not be able to see their family and friends, but that doesn't mean they can't partake in the holiday spirit. That is why we are asking Republicans from across the 12th Congressional District to join us in our Holiday Care Package Drive so that our military personnel can get a taste of the holiday spirit while defending our freedoms overseas.

We are asking everyone to help our cause by donating items that will help bring holiday cheer to our veterans.

WHO: The Republican Party of Georgia

WHAT: Holiday Care Package Drive

WHEN: Now until January 3rd

WHERE: 2834 Washington Road in Augusta, GA

WHY: To support our veterans and give them a taste of the holidays

WHAT TO BRING: Chips, Cookies, Baby Wipes, Board Games, see attached list

AdoptaPlatoon's Suggested Snack Food & Miscellaneous Items

January 2011

All food items must be appropriately sealed / and prepackaged

WHAT CANNOT BE SENT: Pork products, Alcohol, Pornographic materials, liquid hand sanitizer, or Aerosol cans. Due to the extreme heat, chocolate is not mailed during the summer months. Visit the USPS at <http://www.usps.com> to learn more about APO/FPO mailings and view sizes of postal boxes available. Call 1.800.610.8734 to order free shipping supplies. Visit the Military Postal Service Agency to learn even more <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/mid.htm>.

Canned Items

Canned fruit
Chicken and/or packs; pop-top
Peanut butter / Jelly
Sardines
Tuna and/or packs (tuna in pouches are best)

Condiments

Cajun seasoning
Catsup
Garlic salt
Honey packs
Hot sauce
Lawry's
Mayo,
Mustard
Relish
Salad dressings
Salsa (don't forget the taco chips)
Salt/pepper, sugar packets
Spices
Sweet N Low



Ground Coffee (if they have a coffee-maker)

– be sure it's unflavored ground coffee)
If you send coffee beans – be sure to send a coffee grinder
Tea / Hot Chocolate
Instant Cappuccino
Coffee creamer
Hot chocolate mixes
Instant coffee
Tea bags

Microwavable Foods

(if they have a microwave)
Mac & Cheese
Popcorn
Brownie mix
Various mini dinners
Instant oatmeal
Instant soups / soups in pop-top containers



Powdered Drink Mix Singles

Crystal Light
Gatorade
Juice boxes
Kool-Aid
Propel, etc.

Snacking Foods

Beef Jerky / beef sticks, summer sausage
Cheese spreads / small Velveeta cheese blocks
Dry Cereal
Chex Mix
Chips
Cookies
Crackers for snacking
Doritos
Dried fruit
Energy bars / Cereal Bars / high protein bars / Granola Bars
Fruit pies
Gum, Hard Candy wrapped (no chocolate in summer)
Little Debbie's & other snack cakes
Nuts (all kinds)
Pudding cups



Toiletries

Advil, Tylenol, Cold/Cough drops, Sinus Meds
Antacids
Antibiotic Cream (Neosporin)
Anti-Bacterial Wipes
Baby Oil, Baby Powder
Baby Wipes
Bath mat
Bath/hand/wash towels (dark colors)
Blankets for cooler weather
Body Wash / soap (be sure to triple pack the soap and not put it near the food as it leaves the smell of soap on the food)
Chapstick
Clothes Pins/Line
Contact Lens Cleaner
Cotton Balls
Dental Floss
Deodorant
Disposable hand and feet warmers
DUSTING CLOTHS for removing the sand from everything and every surface
Eye Drops
Eyeglass Kit
Face Soap
Foot Inserts for boots
Foot/Boot Powder
Insect Repellent Wipes/ non aerosol spray with Deet (need in spring/summer)
Imodium
Laundry Soap / Fabric Softener
Air Freshener



Toiletries continued

Lotion for body and hand
Mattress toppers
Mirror
Mouthwash
Nasal Spray/Drops
Packaged Wet Ones / baby wipes
Pepto Bismol
Pillow with pillowcase
Pocket Size First-Aid Kit
Puma Stones for feet
Q-Tips
Shampoo
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Toenail/Fingernail Clippers
Toilet Paper
Tooth Paste / Tooth Brush
Tooth Picks
Twin Fitted dark sheets
Vitamins



Men: Razors, Shaving Cream in a tube, after-shave lotion (no fragrance)

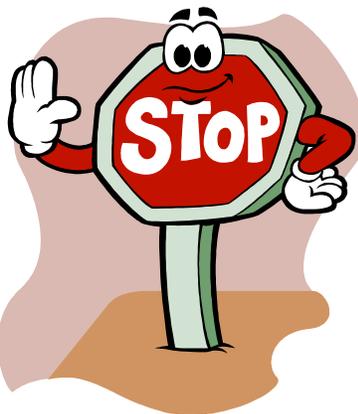
Women: Panty Liners, feminine hygiene products, conditioner, brush/comb hair clips/bands, non-aerosol hair spray, hair gel

Suggested Clothing

Hats, bandanna; Socks – white for PT; black for everyday wear with uniform

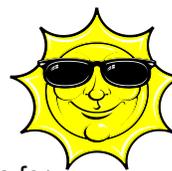
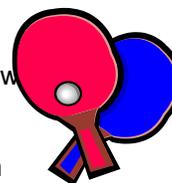
Men's T-shirts and underwear (all sizes)
BROWN or GREEN colors for the T-SHIRT if possible. Proper issued military t-shirts can also be acquired at Army Surplus stores.

Women's sport bras and panties (all sizes)



Suggested Fun Time Materials

Balls: soccer ball, baseballs, basketballs, volley ball sets, football
Batteries: AA- C -D -9 volt
Beanie Babies or stuffed animals (new please)
Board Games
Playing Cards
CD Player with CDs / send batteries
Dart Board with darts
Disposable cameras
DVDs (you can tape from television too)
Electronic/Battery Hand held games (include batteries)
Frisbee
Greeting Cards they can send back home (variety)
Mag flashlight bulbs,
Mailing Envelopes (no stamps) / Pens w
Stationary
Magazines (all kinds)
Mini Hand-held Fan or Water Misty fan
Nerf Balls
Packaged Poker Sets
Plastic bowls, spoons, forks, knives
PlayStation with games
Puzzle Books/Word Find Books
Sewing Kits
Small flash light for reading at night
Water guns
X-Box with games
Yo-Yo's
Zip Lock Bags & Plastic lock containers for sealing leftovers and personal items



What cannot be sent: Pork products, alcohol, pornographic materials, liquid hand sanitizer, or aerosol cans (they may explode). Do not send products in glass containers (unless they are bubble-wrapped a few times. Package all food items that may leak in zip-lock bags. Put all liquid items in a zip-lock bag. Due to the extreme heat, chocolate is not mailed during the summer months.

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Mailing information and Instructions

- The Department of Defense does not accept mail addressed to “any service member.” Use the U.S. Postal Service when mailing packages and flat mail to the troops.
- You can mail all packages by **Priority Mail, Parcel Post** or **flat mail box**.
- *America Supports You* Priority Mail Flat rate boxes come in size 12” x 12” x 5-1/2” for a flat rate of \$10.95. There are other flat rate boxes for \$12.95. Maximum weight is 70 pounds.
- Parcel Post can be cheaper but it also takes longer to arrive since they do not travel by aircraft within the U.S. prior to overseas dispatch.
- Do not send anything of great value or items that are breakable.
- All packages sent to military addresses must have a **custom form** (available at your Post Office).
- Priority mail and flat rate boxes and other shipping supplies can be ordered free of charge by calling 1.800.610.8734. Visit the USPS online: <http://www.usps.com>.
- You can also order “MILITARY MAILING KITS” by calling 1-800-610-8734 and requesting CAREKIT04. The kits provide mailing supplies for up to five care package mailing boxes plus envelopes and custom forms. We highly suggest however that if you can use the flat rate box sizes for your mailings, that you do so because it saves money!
- Visit the following USPS website page for answers to many common question regarding mailings to deployed U.S. Service Members.
http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2008/pr08_117.htm
- Depending on their location, Service Members do not pay postage on their mailings, so please do not send postage stamps. Cushion your packages with plenty of crumbled newspaper. Do not use foam peanut packing material. If you use popped popcorn to secure the contents of your package, place the popcorn in zip lock type plastic bags so that the corn does not spill out when the box is opened. Use plenty of shipping tape to secure the package. Put ALL food and any liquid (shampoo, conditioner, etc.) in zip lock plastic bags in case the containers burst in transit. Our Soldiers say, “When preparing packages, assume it will be handled by a herd of elephants!”
- Mail Restrictions: Each country has custom regulations that apply to all incoming mail. These may include prohibitions on certain kinds of food or entertainment products. Military ZIP Code restrictions may change as military units move to different locations. You will find all restrictions for overseas military ZIP Codes in U.S. Postal Service bulletins: <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/pb.htm>.
- BE SURE TO READ THE RESTRICTIONS in the bulletin from the post office. Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith cannot be sent to military installations located in Muslim countries. Religious items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible. Pork or pork by-products cannot be sent to Muslim countries

