



Operation Write Home is a group of hundreds of private citizens—artisans, paper crafters, card-makers—who have come together through our common love of our craft and our desire to honor our armed forces serving on our behalf.

Regardless of what we think about the conflicts currently going on around the world, we can agree that our heroes are brave, honorable, and deserve our support! The cards allow them to keep in touch with their loved ones, and thus we get to also bless the families who bravely keep the candle in the window at home. We also support other organizations and individuals with cards as needed.

Letters Home

Cards, letters, and e-mails
from our hero contacts
deployed around the world



These are edited letters received by Operation Write Home; names, and places have been removed to protect the identity of the service members and their families.

Please share these notes as inspiration to generate more support—at cardmaking parties, events, wherever you're sharing about sending cards to our heroes!



Sending greeting cards: A luxury

An e-mail from a soldier in Afghanistan

My name is SPC A.S. of the 2d Forward Surgical Team out of Ft Carson CO. I recently received a package from you. I just wanted to express my gratitude to you and anyone involved in your project. It's amazing how things like sending greeting cards can become a luxury for us especially since the only things we can buy out here come from the locals and well I don't think they understand these things. But well we are doing O.K. out here thanks to people such as yourselves and Ms. Nathalia S. I hope I spelled that right.

A million thanks again and God Bless,
SPC A.S.

We really appreciate you!

From a soldier in Iraq

Thank you for your cards and snacks. Thank you for supporting your troops. We really appreciate you!

Thank you for sending all these cards

A letter from a sailor in Afghanistan:

Thank you for sending all these cards for the troops here in Afghanistan. I have them out for everyone to grab and send!

A.R.

Once again thank your for your support

From a soldier in Iraq:

I received the scrapbooking materials in a package yesterday. It is absolutely what I needed! Thank you sooo much! It's perfect and I know it's really going to be so useful to all of our scrapbooks. They are coming along quite nicely.

Thanks for sending a picture of you and your husband. It's really nice talking with you and once again thank your for your support. It means the world! Take care, and write whenever you like.

SPC K.C., Iraq

I cannot express our thanks enough

From a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you so much for your support! All those cards were simply beautiful and amazing! I couldn't believe it. This is my first deployment (over a 13 year career) and when you're in the military you never realize how much support the military has until you deploy. I cannot express our thanks enough, our troops located at the outlying FOBs really appreciate getting these packages and letters showing support. You tend to take things for granted and never appreciate the little things that make getting through a deployment a little bit easier until you no longer have them.

SSgt X, Iraq

Patriots at home

An e-mail from a naval officer aboard a ship in the Persian Gulf:

Thank you for the box of cards. I've passed them out to my squadronmates and they are thrilled to have them to write home. It's wonderful to have support from patriots at home. We really appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,

CDR S.M.

You remind us of why we serve our country

A letter from an army JAG unit in Iraq:

Thank you so much for the wonderful cards and notes! We will use them and share them with as many soldiers as we can! Kind, caring people like you remind us of why we serve our country!

Sp K.L.

Additional signatures by others:

Thanks! -J.K	Thank you so much! -Sgt T.
Thanks! -Sgt M.B.	You're the greatest! -L.L.
Great idea! -D.M.	Thanks! -K.D

Thank you for thinking of me

A letter from a soldier:

Sorry for this much delayed response. I just wanted to say thank you for thinking of me during the holiday season! It brought a smile to my face.

Happy New Year!

S.K.

I am overwhelmed

An e-mail from a soldier in Iraq

I am overwhelmed. The cards you sent were absolutely gorgeous. The beautiful craftsmanship awed all of us. The guys were even oohing and awing over the quality, texture and variety. That in itself sends accolades. There was a card for all of us; from the youngest soldier wanting something to send to his parents to the old, crusty first sergeant wanting something to send his gentle wife back home.

On a more personal note; I was dismayed just last week at the limited selection of cards available at the small post exchange (PX) here. My 12th wedding anniversary is almost here and since this is our first anniversary apart, I wanted to send something really nice. Now, I will be able to send something just perfect for my beloved husband. My three kids will definitely enjoy receiving such lovely cards too; especially my two girls who miss getting to do crafts at home with their Momma. I cannot say "Thank You" enough.

Services, such as your organization does, makes a Soldier feel pride in his/her country knowing that we serve a nation with such wonderful people in it. People who sacrifice their time and energy for us. From all of us here, especially the women, "THANK YOU". Your thoughts and actions mean the world to us.

With the deepest appreciation,

SSG C.C., Iraq

Thank you very much for supporting the deployed U.S. Forces

An e-mail from a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you very much for sending a package with some wonderful scrapbooking materials. It was very meaningful and comforting to know you were thinking about us. Our scrapbooks are coming along very nicely, and they have become both a way for us to capture our memories and to be able to share with others what we are experiencing. Thank you very much for supporting the deployed U.S. Forces.

Respectfully,
SPC K.C.

No longer have an excuse for “not writing Mom!”

An e-mail from a soldier in Iraq:

Just got a huge box of home made greeting cards from you - What a great thing! Knowing people put so much time and effort for us was absolutely overwhelming. Many, many soldiers will get to use these cards, and no longer have an excuse for “not writing Mom!”

Thanks for all you do!
SPC K.L, Iraq

Forwarded package

A letter from a Marine Chaplain in Iraq:

I am the Chaplain for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group. We are normally stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA but recently arrived in Iraq. One of the great things about my job is that often receive packages from people in the States who want to help Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen who are serving away from their loved ones.

The other day we received a number of packages that had been shipped here. Some were from units that had left and others were forwarded to us for further distribution. Yours was one of them. I'm not exactly sure when you sent the package but I wanted to thank you and let you know we have already distributed everything to the Marines and Sailors who perform the daily patrols out in Fallujah. They are charged with working with the Iraqi security forces and people to ensure security and help restore the local economy.

It is wonderful to have people like you who think of us while we are away from home. For many of the troops, this is their second or third time in Iraq. While no one enjoys being separated from family and loved ones, these men and women are committed to accomplishing the mission assigned.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Fr XXXX, Chaplain

Thank you for caring for our troops

An e-mail referring to cards written to thank wounded heroes, being delivered by this Major at the CASH in Baghdad:

Thank you for the cards you sent me via [K.M.] to deliver to our wounded service members at the Combat Support Hospital here in Baghdad. I will personally ensure that they are delivered to them and that they feel your support. Thank you again for thinking and caring for our troops here in Iraq.

Respectfully,

MAJ E.R, Multi-National Force - Iraq
US Embassy, Baghdad

Hello and thank you!

A letter from a Marine:

Hello and thank you for your package, it is greatly appreciated!

R.R.

You are very kind to take the time to remember us

A letter from a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you very much for the beautiful cards. I'll be leaving in a few hours for some visits to the battle positions and I'll pass them out. You are very kind to take the time to remember us. It will mean a lot to the soldiers. May God bless you richly in the days ahead.

Sincerely yours,
J.C.S, Iraq

Here's a big thank you

An e-mail from an airman in Afghanistan:

Here's a big thank you from the folks from AFN Afghanistan! They [the cards] are awesome. The BX doesn't have a good selection of cards and this definitely makes keeping in touch with family members easier. The Moose card received the most laughs so far. Good stuff.

As for my job, I enjoy it. I get to travel a bit and let people know about all of our hard working servicemembers out here doing the job. It's a lot of fun.

Again, thanks for the cards. They will come in handy.

SSGT T.P., Afghanistan

On a table was a huge box...

An e-mail from the wife of a soldier (she is also one of our cardmakers); she is in Italy, and her husband is somewhere in a remote place in Iraq:

...my husband is in the military and spends lots of time down range. These soldiers really appreciate the cards. Just this morning I got an e-mail from him telling me he has been in Iraq, and due to security reasons I do not know where, but I know it is out of the "Green Zone."

He was in a day room and on a table was a huge box, full of cards! Someone got hold of the cards and brought them in. He asked around and no one is claiming responsibility for bringing them.

They are being sent to the most remote locations. He saw 2 soldiers sitting at a table writing cards, and they were so excited to have them. He says to tell my "friends" THANK - YOU !!!

D.S., Italy

You have touched many lives

A card from a soldier in Kuwait:

Thank you for the cards! They are lovely. You have touched many lives through these cards and they are greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!

Sgt Axxxx, Kuwait

With love and thanks

A card from a soldier in Afghanistan who requested and received a box full of craft supplies:

Thank you so very much to all the people who put this package together! It will be a lot of fun being able to put my own cards together.

For those of you who don't know, I am 21 yrs old and have spent the last 7 months stationed in Afghanistan, hopefully only another 7 months to go! I have a little girl, almost 16 months old, and shes with her dad right now. They are in Bamberg Germany. That's where she was born and where we spent the last 3 years. Well that's a little about me.

With love and thanks,
D.D., Afghanistan

Your cards are a real hit over here!

An e-mail from a soldier in Iraq:

Your cards are a real hit over here! A bunch have been used and mailed out to families and people back home. I'm still trying to get the word out to more people cause I still got a bunch left. But they are really being appreciated, and I think its a really good idea. We would all like to thank all of you for your support and generosity with the cards. And Merry Christmas too!
Spc. E D., Iraq

We appreciate all you do

From a Marine in Iraq:

The Marines of CLB 8 Supply would like to thank everyone who has taken time out of their busy lives during this holiday season to send cards, letters, and care packages. Our time here in Iraq hasn't been that bad because we have supporters like you all out there constantly showing you appreciation for our service through your letters and care packages. We will be leaving here in about 2 months. Although we appreciate all you do, we will not need anymore care packages after Jan. 20th. Thanks for all you've done and what you continue to do in support of the Marines. We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

SSgt M.T., Iraq

A phone call just won't do

A letter from a soldier in Afghanistan:

I would like to say thank you and let you know that the cards you made are beautiful, awesome and meant a lot. Those in my shop also thank you. I have learned that when a phone call just won't do a letter received in the mail is always a way to bring a smile to anyone's face, especially those you love. Thank you for the support and encouragement.

CPT A.S.

These soldiers are the finest we've ever had

Portion of an e-mail from a contractor (former military) in Iraq:

Thanks so much for your e-mail and please pardon my slow response. Time just flies when you're having fun and I'm having a real blast out here...or I must be, because the days roll by so quickly.

If you have generic "wounded soldier" cards, send some of those, too. Our lay leader, Maj. B.R., frequently goes to the Combat Support Hospital (CSH, or "Cash") to visit troops wounded in the line of duty. I'm sure she would like to take some cards from folks back home who support the soldiers and the mission. And I have to reiterate, these soldiers are the finest we've ever had when it comes to being trained, equipped, and having the right attitude. One of our members is a National Guardsman from Massachusetts who is making slightly less than he would at home but, because of the mission and the value of the experience for his career, wants to extend for a second year. Not the kind of story you'll hear on CNN, though, is it?

I can probably distribute a couple of dozen cards—as you no doubt noticed I have a preferred stationery which I use for [my own] correspondence. I use a fountain pen and one has to match paper to pen nib (tip) to insure the proper flow of ink from the pen to the paper. Use the wrong nib with an absorbent paper and you'll have big splotches of ink all over! If I need more, I'll send you another e-mail.

Thanks again for your support and best of everything to you and yours.

K.M., Iraq

It was a great Christmas!

From a soldier in Iraq:

I wanted to thank all of you who have support myself and team members. It was a great Christmas! If we cannot us the items we send them to our other teams who are very grateful. I hope you all have a wonderful New Year!!

Thank you again,

SSG E.F. and Team 702, Iraq

My sailors loved the cards!

From a sailor in Iraq:

Thank you for the wonderful package. My sailors loved the cards! Thank you for the nice letter and the wonderful care package. Many compliments on the beautiful cards. it is this type of mail that brings new inspiration to those of us serving over here.....15+ years in the navy, I am still honored that those at home take a moment out of their busy schedules to bring a smile to our faces....

We have been receiving packages

From a soldier in Iraq:

We are so sorry to have neglected you all. We have been receiving packages and have loved everyone of them. Some of us have even started writing back when we have the time. So good friends have already been made with those of you that have sent us letters of prayer and safety. We have a wall in our office of the children's drawings. We love to read their letters! It is Christmas time now and we will ensure that we take pictures to send to you all. Thank you again,

Best Holiday Wishes,
E.F

We appreciate all the Christmas cards

A post on anysoldier from a soldier in Iraq:

I had to do alot of things for the army, but we appreciate all the Christmas cards and decorations. We enjoyed the letters! We appreciate the support we are getting as we serve to protect the united states. I will send pictures as soon as i can get a camera.

Thank you,
SPC J.B., Iraq

Support and dedication to the troops is remarkable

An e-mail from an airman in Afghanistan:

I wanted to let you know that I received your letter yesterday and I wanted to get a hold of you as soon as possible to let you know that a new rotation has come in and I'm sure they would love the cards that you and the others have made. We just got finalization on our relief coming in, so not too much longer to go. To give you some idea, I'll be here for Valentines Day but I'll be home for St. Patties. Again thank you all so much for all that everyone has done. The support and dedication to the troops is remarkable. THANK YOU!!!!

M.G., Afghanistan

I hope you receive many blessings

A card from a soldier in Kuwait:

Merry Christmas! Thank you for your support. I hope you receive many blessings this Christmas!
Sgt. D.C., Kuwait

Sizzix (or however you spell it) stuff

A letter from a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you for your card. It's beautiful. My wife likes to make cards, too, and has lots of Sizzix (or however you spell it) stuff. I know how much time and effort goes into making cards like this.

I was able to be home for the first part of Chanukah even though I was supposed to be back from R & R before Chanukah started. I had to have some medical tests and ended up with 10 days leave without pay. Thanks again for the beautiful card.

Yours Truly,

K.M., Baghdad

Happy New Years!!!

An e-mail from a soldier in Afghanistan who received supplies to make over 100 cards (their request, wanted to make their own!):

Hola! How are you? Me, I am okay. Happy New Years!!! I got the box of cards and stuff, it's wonderful! Thank you! All the girls in the office were excited about it, too! I am sure we'll be able to come up with some really cool cards from that stuff - thank you so much!!!

Always,
Pvt. D.G., Afghanistan

Please express sincerest thanks

A card from a soldier stationed in Iraq:

Please express sincerest thanks on behalf of myself and my soldiers for your "card contribution." It is with humility and metered pride that we serve. It is people like you, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Allnock, Ms. Weeks and Mrs. Dabbs that really brighten our experiences over here. This is my second tour to Iraq, this time for 15 months. Last time it was 12 months with 18 between the two. It is tough watching my daughter grow up in photographs. I expect I'll be back here in about a year but spirits are high as I've only about four days before I leave. I should be home in time for Christmas! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you ladies/girls. Thank you all so very much!

B., Iraq

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers

An e-mail from a soldier:

Thank you for your thoughtful card and well wishes. It means alot to us. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Best Regards,
SGT T.R.

I am grateful that you thought of me

A letter and photo received from a sailor stationed in the Gulf:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I am grateful that you thought of me during Hanukkah this year. I was on the aircraft carrier USS [XXX] in the Persian Gulf for the holiday, so it was wonderful to receive your support. Your kindness certainly brightened my time at sea.

I have attached a photo from a Hanukkah celebration on the ship. I was able to celebrate on several nights with the ship's small, but active, Jewish community.

Thank you again for your kindness!
Best wishes,
CDR S.M., Persian Gulf

Thank you for the beautiful cards!

A letter from a soldier in Afghanistan:

Happy Holidays and wishes for all good things in the coming year! Thank you for the beautiful cards! My writing skills and sensitivity and thankfulness has increased.

May God bless you.
CPT A.S.

Your support and faith

From a Marine in Iraq:

Just knowing that your support and faith is behind us over here makes my day better. We work long hours and 7 days a week which is good cause time flies by, over 3 months here now and that is hard to believe.

Happy Holidays.

Lcpl B.L., Iraq

Thank you and your friends

A Christmas card from the mother of a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you and your friends from the mother of a serving troop and also a spouse of a reservist, for the kindness you've shown to all! May God bless you!

N.D., Maryland

Happy Holidays!

A card from an Army unit in Afghanistan:

Happy Holidays! Thanks for all your support!

D.M., M.L, D.M., and A.S., Afghanistan

You bring a smile to our faces

A Christmas card from members of a navy unit in Iraq:

We all wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! We also appreciate all you have done for us. Thank you! You bring a smile to our faces & brighten up our days away from home. Thank you for caring and taking time to do what you do. Thanks, we appreciate you!

Sincerely,
-M

Hope you have a very Merry X-Mas and a Happy New Year. -S

You are very talented! I love your creations. Thank you. -E

Thanks for all your thoughts and kindness. -C.F.

Happy Holidays! Thanks, -M

Thank you, -M

Thanks! -C

Everyone loved them!

An e-mail from a sailor in Iraq:

HAPPY TURKEY DAY to you!!! Enjoy your Thanksgiving! And thank you for the Christmas cards, they were a hit. Everyone loved them! We all GREATLY appreciate what you and everyone else has done for us!

Sincerely,
HM2 M.C., Iraq

Thank you so much for all your support!

From a soldier in Afghanistan:

Hi, how are you? You're probably wondering who in the heck this is. My name is Sgt D.M. and I got an Any Soldier Christmas card from you the other day. And I was just writing to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thank you so much for all your support!

Sgt D.M.

Word spread like wildfire

From a soldier in Baghdad:

First I want to say thanks to all those out there who are so talented and so generous. Thank you Shannon, Dena, Sandy and Audrey (I received your packages) The Soldiers, Airmen and Marines here love the cards. Word spread like wildfire that there were "homemade cards". I keep the cards in an open area for everyone to use. I only got a few pictures but when I came back to work the next day the box was almost empty. Here [are] some of the pictures. Peas are wonderful.

MQ, Iraq

Thanks for the cards sent to Iraq

From a soldier in Iraq:

How are you? I just received a box of beautiful handmade cards from you today. All of us on the Command Deck at Al Asad Air Base in sunny Iraq thank you for such a nice box of cards that we can send to our families and friends. We just finished 2 big VIP visits here at Al Asad. On Sept 3rd, 2007 we took care of hosting and protecting President Bush, Defense Secretary Gates, the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, Ambassador Crocker, and a host of generals, Iraqi President Talaboni, Prime Minister Maliki and 13 Sheiks.

Unfortunately, just 2 weeks after this historic meeting with U.S. and Iraqi officials, the top Sheik from Ramadi was killed by insurgents who are targeting Iraqis who work with the U.S. to establish peace and stability.

I mailed out a thank you card today...I didn't use one of the cards you sent...that would have been tacky;-) I wrote on the back, a little about a foundation I support in Chapel Hill called SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals. Family House is just like the Ronald McDonald House but it will take care of housing adults needing extended lodging away from home, while being treated at UNC Hospitals. The facility is nearing completion and is located next to the Ronald McDonald House, across from the NC Botanical Gardens in Chapel Hill. This is a non profit organization that will provide extended lodging in a 40 suite facility, at no cost or low cost to the individual being treated. Please see the attached website and if you are interested in supporting Family House, please call Kathy or Greg who are listed on the website. <http://familyhouseatunch.org/aguayo.html>

Thanks again,

G.A.

The Soldiers are thrilled!

An e-mail from a soldier in Iraq:

Thank you so much for thinking of us here in Baghdad! We received your wonderful package of cards and other thoughtful items. The Soldiers are thrilled! Thank you for being so thoughtful and supportive.

I attached a photo of some of the guys I work with at the new chow hall that just opened.

“SUPPORTING VICTORY”

Sincerely,

-R.J., Baghdad

Happy to find the perfect card

An e-mail from a sailor in Kuwait:

I couldn't wait and had to e-mail you. The cards are absolutely beautiful. You should see the guys going through them. They are happy to find the perfect card to send home. Wow! Thank you! We are busy here, but it is going well overall. It is hot and windy here. It has reached 145 degrees already since I have been here. I am attaching a picture of me next to a thermometer. Enjoy! =) How are things going there? What other types of arts/crafts do you do? I really like them myself.

S

Truly amazing

A card from a soldier in Afghanistan:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to write to us soldiers out here.

I am V.M., I am 22 years old from [hometown]. This is my first time being away from family on the holidays, so getting letters from unknown supporters is truly amazing.

I just wanted to write and thank you all for all that you do.

God bless,
-V.M., Afghanistan

Gone in about 2 hours!

A letter from an airman in Afghanistan:

Thank you so much for the cards! They were gone in about 2 hours! They love them here. Like I said before, the BX doesn't always have a great selection and its always nice to have something different. Thank you to you all!

I will definitely check out the website when it's up and share my thanks to all.

Well you have a safe and joyous holiday. Your dedication and devotion to us is greatly appreciated!

With thanks,
M.G., Afghanistan

Thank you very much!

A letter from a soldier in Iraq:

Shalom! It was really great to receive your care package and cards! Thank you very much!

I serve with a Military Transition Team (MITT) in Baghdad Iraq. We are partnered with an Iraqi army unit which we advise and assist in their operations. With our help they are on their way to becoming self sufficient and protecting Iraq on their own.

It is an interesting job because it is so unprecedented and unpredictable. I have fun with it because I get to learn Arabic and all about the different cultures in Iraq. It can be a drag though, but what job can't be. Being in Baghdad has it's good points, I get to work with and talk to people from up to 30 different countries and in as many as 6 different languages at a time. So there is a lot of cultural exchange going on.

My wife lives in [city], we have 2 dogs, a cat, a rabbit, and a guinea pig. We really love animals. We are also expecting our first child in December. Don't know if it will be a boy or girl. It'll be a surprise.

My address will be changing soon, so please hold any packages until I have a new one.

-CPT R.K.,Iraq

You are very appreciated!

From a soldier:

Just wanted to let you know I got the cards you sent! Thanks so much! I am in the process of distributing them. You are so gracious. Thank you again! You are very appreciated!

I will be moving this summer, so this box of cards should probably be the last since they start packing us out early spring and I have lots of family events crammed in between now and then. But I just can't tell you enough how much you and the other women who have made these cards are appreciated!

Thank you!

K.C, Korea

One card a week

An e-mail from a hero in Iraq:

I just wanted to send an e-mail thanking you for all the cards you send to Iraq. They are wonderful and I send one card a week to my 4 year old Daughter who loves getting them in the mail. I am getting ready to return home from Iraq in a few weeks we may even make it home for Christmas.

Thanks again,

T.D.

Please express our gratitude

A letter from a Marine in Iraq:

On behalf of the Marines here in Supply, I would like to say thank you. We received the cards and they are beautiful! I never thought of having cards sent but they came in so handy. All of the Marines are putting them to use.

Please express our gratitude to all involved. Our exchange over here hardly ever has the type of greeting card you're looking for. It was so nice to receive that unexpected package.

And yes, we would love to receive Thanksgiving and Christmas cards! The artwork and crafting skills are amazing.

Again thanks for being such a great supporter,

The Marines of [xx] Supply

Husband of the year

A letter from an airman in Afghanistan:

Thank you all for all of those beautiful cards that you all made for us! My leadership loved them. They mentioned that their wives are going to think they are the husband of the year, for sending the cards. It even reminded one of them of a birthday coming up.

I especially realize the dedication and commitment you all have put into each and every card made. I've been scrapbooking now for about 3 years now, and finally convinced my husband to turn 1/2 of our office into a space for me and my scrapbooking. It's a great hobby and I absolutely love doing it, and learning new techniques. There was a group of girls, we'd get together and spend hours scrapbooking. My husband actually gets into it and helps me out when I get stuck or can't get any ideas.

Well I'm over here with about 5 other people (all guys). It's tough being the only girl, but I talk to my 2 other sisters, and the rest of my family, and that helps. One sister is in the Marines in NC, and the other is in the Army in Hawaii.

We hit our 2 month mark today, so only 4 more to go!

Thank you all again for all the cards, they were all put to good use. Anything is put to good use here!

With thanks,

M.G., Afghanistan

We can't thank you enough

An e-mail from a sailor in Iraq:

We all thank you for the cards you and your friends made for us. They're GREAT! Very creative, I must say. We appreciate your support. We can't thank you enough.

We all miss home so much! But we'll be home before we know it. If my digital camera will actually work, I will take a picture of all of us and send it to you. I don't have any pictures of my group, yet.

It's ok over here. Nothing much is happening. It has calmed down a lot, where we are at. It sucks being away from home and not being able to get away from work. We work almost every day all week.

FYI, the Marine Corps is a department of the Navy. Therefore, the Navy funds the USMC and lends them medical personnel because they don't have medical jobs in the USMC. I've been in the Navy for 8 1/2 years. I have spent 5 years as a medic for the Marines. The other 3, I spent stationed right outside of [city]. The entire time, I have only been on a ship for a max of 2 weeks. A sailor that doesn't sail, weird, I know.

Thank your friends for me and the rest of my crew. Take care and keep in touch! Bye!

HM2 M.C., Iraq

Everyone knew I got another package

A letter from an airman in Afghanistan:

Thank you so very much for the cards. Before I could even open the box I had people coming to me for more cards! I don't always get to my mail right away so everyone knew I got another package from you. It is amazing like you said that all these wonderful women out there are spreading their creativity all the way to Afghanistan.

The Bx (which is like a Walmart but only for military) just started bringing the Christmas items out. I told everyone I work with that you'll be sending some more cards so don't bother buying the ones out there. We have plenty of people here to use up whatever you send! I'm in a group of 5 individuals, but there are about 75 more cops here also, just doing a different job than me. I'm also part of a group over here that involves all the staff sergeants and tech sergeants throughout the entire Air Force Camp that we are in. So needless to say there are 100s that I can get these cards out to.

With being in the military you never really get a chance to be creative. That's why I like volunteering for the Holiday committees. It gives me the chance to show everyone what I'm capable of, other than shooting a gun!

Well I've gone on too much. I have about 4 more letters to write and family to send your beautiful cards to. Thank you again for the cards. Feel free to send whatever you want, there is plenty to go around here. Again, thank you all for all you do!

With thanks, Ssgt M.G., Afghanistan

My own personal thanks

A letter from a soldier in Afghanistan:

Hello, My name is [A.S.] and one of my fellow soldiers received a package from you containing some homemade cards. She shared them with me and I just wanted to send my own personal thanks. I love to scrapbook things and be crafty and I know how time consuming it is to do something like that. They were all very nice, a few of your princess ones were given to my supervisor so he can write his daughters and I just want you to know that they were all appreciated and they were all very beautiful and cute.

We hope you have a Happy Halloween and a Happy Halloween Season!

Thank you for taking time out of your day to send something warm to the troops in Afghanistan!

Very respectfully,
SrA A.S, Afghanistan

Thank you

A card from a soldier in Kuwait:

Thank you for the greeting cards! your support is so greatly appreciated.

I hope that you and your family have a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sgt. D.C., Kuwait

Thanx to you

A letter from a soldier in the US Army in Iraq:

Oh my goodness, thank you so very much for the cards! They are beautiful!!! They really made my day. I wish I was so talented. I love doing stuff like that and scrapbooking, but I never have had anyone really help me out or show me how to do it so beautifully. :D t it?

Yes, I would love some Christmas cards!! I would gladly send you money too! I don't expect you to do that for us for nothing! I have to confess, I am the only female in my squad. However, my fellow female soldiers loved them too. The day to day chaos of this place really makes you appreciate the smallest things in life...like spending Halloween with my nephew. But I won't get to do that cuz I'm here, but thanx to you I can send him a card letting him know I miss him and I hope he has fun!

Well I suppose I should go...thank you again, take care, and keep in touch!

J.H., Iraq

These have such a great home feel to them.

A letter from a soldier in Afghanistan:

Thanks so much for the cards. Everyone really loves them. It is hard to find the right cards you need out here at the PX/BX. These have such a great home feel to them. We all appreciate your support. Thank you for thinking about us.

Sincerely,

S.S.

My little girl loves getting them

An email from a soldier in Iraq

I just wanted to say THANK YOU so very much for these wonderful cards!!

I came into work this morning and there in our "For anyone pile" was your box of cards. I went through them and found so many cards. I adore sending cards (and my little girl loves getting them), notes and what nots back home and this made it that much easier. What a wonderful idea all of you have come up with.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts in all these wonderful cards!!!

SSG N.S.

Thank you

From a military wife!

My husband, Air Force Major XX, has been deployed to Taji, Iraq since just after Christmas. We have two girls who have both had birthdays since he's been gone (3 and 1). An avid scrapbooker, I've been handmaking him cards with photos of the girls. What a surprise for me when all of a sudden, I started receiving beautifully handmade cards from HIM. After about six of such cards, I noticed one thing in common. . .your website. . . so I just had to look you all up online. I definitely plan on starting to make cards for others now. What a fantastic idea! Thank you so much for your kindness. E-mail is fantastic, but there's nothing quite like a handwritten note to brighten your day! My brother, Army Capt xx, is also in Iraq. I plan on telling him about these great cards, too.

Thanks again,

L.M., Alabama

My own personal thanks

A letter from a soldier in Iraq:

Hello from Iraq,

Just writing a quick thank you for the cards you recently sent to me and the soldiers out here. They were a big hit. Everyone was amazed at the quality and quantity of the cards. Thanks very much from the front lines!! We really appreciate the thought and talent that went into each and every one of them. Every one of your contributors did a great job.

Sincerely,

LCDR T.P, EWO

We would love more cards

A card from a soldier in Afghanistan:

We would love more cards. I know that everyone is loving them. We have a MWR room where they have been set out and we are pretty diminished at this point but I am sure there are a lot of happy moms and dads in the states, all because you guys were kind enough to give us a good selection of cards to send home. Believe me we all appreciate it.

J.B,

Thanx to you

A letter from a soldier in Iraq:

Oh my goodness, thank you so very much for the cards! They are beautiful!!! They really made my day. I wish I was so talented. I love doing stuff like that and scrapbooking, but I never have had anyone really help me out or show me how to do it so beautifully.

Yes, I would love some Christmas cards!! I have to confess, I am the only female in my squad. However, my fellow female soldiers loved them too. The day to day chaos of this place really makes you appreciate the smallest things in life...like spending Halloween with my nephew. But I won't get to do that cuz I'm here, but thanx to you I can send him a card letting him know I miss him and I hope he has fun!

Well I suppose I should go...thank you again, take care, and keep in touch!

J.H., Iraq