

More about the troops we are supporting & ideas/tips for packages!

Email from SGT Eric Rasmussen:

Currently I am deployed with Charlie Company 2-211th GSAB which is a MEDEVAC from St. Cloud. We have a group of 52 soldiers, mostly consisting of pilots, medics, crew chiefs, mechanics and support personnel. We are currently split into two groups that are deployed to Kuwait and a second undisclosed location. Our group is ranges in age from 19 years old to a couple in their 50s, mostly guys but also have five women in our unit.

Our mission is to treat and transport injured and sick soldiers from battle zones and take them to hospitals or transport planes to head home. We are a flight unit that operates out of Blackhawk helicopters. Our site has been quite busy the past few months but luckily it is related to mostly medical illnesses or sports injuries rather than combat in most cases.

I thought I would mention a little bit about what life is like here. Most Soldiers sleep in four-man rooms which have an electric outlet, bed and wall locker. We usually corner off our own space by hanging sheets or shower curtains as "walls", personal space is extremely limited so most people hang out in common areas like the medic shack or day room. Our operations run 24/7 on the airfield so we are restricted to running distance from the aircraft and kinda go a little stir crazy being stuck in the same spot all day until a mission drops. Most soldiers spend their time working out in the flight line gym or watching movies to kill time.



We are thoroughly well stocked on toiletry items, (this is a very common care package item) which has literally led to a stockpile in our building. We also got a ton of candy recently in a Halloween care package.

Things that have really stood out in some previous care packages:

-**Condiments**: (having the same meal over and over for months on end is much more bearable when you can drown it in BWW sauces).

-**Themed packages**: cool themed packages related to holidays or group activities are always appreciated. One guy sent some cigars for a cigar night, another package had some board games we could play together, the 4th of July package was a pretty big hit too.

-**Coffee**: coffee is always king, we don't have a kureg (no k cups) but we literally built a coffee bar from plywood and scrounged a broken espresso machine which we rewired from the chowhall.

-**The Gym**: hugely popular here so any gym rat stuff like shaker bottles or water bottles that can be used during workouts and running.

-**Anything activity based** that can kill some time, as crazy as it sounds someone sent some adult coloring books and models which proved popular for something to do that you could drop at a moment's notice if a mission came in.

-**Movies**: if you have anyone who is tech savvy and could download some new shows or movies on a cheap thumb drive this would be awesome. We have internet but it is extremely slow and we can't

download anything on our government computers so watching Netflix without location blocking and constant buffering or being able to download huge files of new movies is difficult. The rare times someone actually gets movies, we end up passing the drive around the unit so everyone can download the newest shows.

Some tips for packages: no liquids, lithium batteries or chocolates (tends to melt), baked goods like cookies tend to dry out unless you stick a piece of bread in the container. Packages tend to be dropped a lot in transit so nothing fragile and if you line the box with a garbage bag it helps when the case of Pepsi someone else sent explodes in the 150 degree shipping container from ruining the contents.

Shipping info:

Will be provided by each team manager

Any questions you have you can contact:

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