

Ocean County, New Jersey based “Support the Troop’s Project”

This organization has adopted numerous US Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force units, which are deployed in dangerous locations around the world. At present we are shipping to military units in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Okinawa, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, UAE and on ships at sea. The units have a mix of male and female troops within their ranks, and come from all over the country. Soldiers from Bay Head, Berkeley, Brick, Toms River and various other towns in Ocean County and around New Jersey, are among the troops receiving support.

Spearheaded by Lloyd Mullikin since 2004, the organization mails over 400 large packages a year, with some weighing as much as 70-pounds. With assistance from Berkeley Township Councilwoman Judy Noonan, Nancy Seibert who manages the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” project, various senior communities in Berkeley Township, and the many other caring citizens and companies from throughout Ocean County, and New Jersey have made this effort a success.

The project's largest expense is for the cost of postage. VFW Posts 9503 & 8352 in Berkeley Township; the American Legion Post 348, in Brick; the group Holiday City Berkeley Veterans & Friends, New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District Congressman Tom MacArthur, through his family charitable foundation “In God’s Hands (IGH)”, and numerous individuals and groups contribute generously towards this purpose.

The military units we send to can use all the help we are able to provide. Some of the units are deployed in forward operating bases, and live in tents, sometimes under very primitive conditions. Because of the nature of their mission, they are also not always able to eat regular meals, or have ready access to the basic necessities of life.

Items that would be of value to these troops include things not readily available at these sometimes remote and isolated locations. Items asked for include:

Energy type foods, like granola bars, and other snack items like cookies, candy and potato chips that can be consumed while on missions in the field.

Reading materials of interest to young adults, such as magazines like Sports Illustrated and People Magazine, DVD movies, etc.. Instant beverages, tea, coffee and small quantity coffee making equipment, are very desirable. Spices and sauces like hot sauces to liven up military chow, which can at times seem pretty bland or boring.

Personal items sometimes in short supply, include non-aerosol toiletries (foot powders, moisturizers, etc.), first aid related supplies (sun screens, eye drops, hand sanitizers, etc.) and non-military clothing such as sweat shirts and tee-shirts, are always welcomed. Toothpaste and tooth brushes, swiffer sheets. And laundry soap pods are also requested.

Greeting and note cards that the soldiers can use to write home are also being sought. The troops are able to send mail home for free, but not surprisingly, they do not have ready access to Christmas, Easter, get well, and birthday, and other types of cards.

Other items of interest might include simple things the soldiers can share with the local people and their children, such as school supplies, clothing items, hard candy, toys, etc.

Rather than sending one or two large packages a year, we send numerous small and large packages over the course of their deployments. This way the soldiers and sailors will know there are caring people at home thinking of them.

Please contact [Lloyd Mullikin](mailto:Lloyd.MULLIKIN@gmail.com) at 732/269-1397, or LLOYD.MULLIKIN@gmail.com if you have any questions about these military units, or ways you might help them.

Deductible donations to the "Troop Mailing Fund" can be made by check, to: VFW Post