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Remember our military overseas for holidays

Bruce Brown
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Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait are all a long way from Acadiana. Members of the U.S. military serving in those countries, and anywhere overseas, need to know that they are remembered back home. The Web site anysoldier.com offers a chance to support those troops.

Participants select one or more soldiers from the Where to Send page. The soldier's address includes the line, "ATTN: Any Soldier." The soldiers are volunteers for this effort, they will see the "Attn" line, and will put letters and packages into the hands of soldiers who don't get much or any mail.

"You sign on to the unit, pull a list and send care packages," said Lt. Erin Robicheaux of the Louisiana National Guard.

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The site provides help on the What to Send and How to Send pages. Participants are encouraged to read the entire Web site before sending anything. Suggested items include phone cards, healthcare products, cutting edge technical equipment and military correspondence kits.

"For the female soldiers, I remember we couldn't get good bras," Robicheaux said. "There was no quality there, and we were there for a year. So that was something different that was good to get.

"We were also pleased to get good hair products. We had long hair, and had to wear it in a bun all day under the Kevlar helmet. We got a lot of that, and lotions, too."

"Just getting letters from home is big," said Lt. Colonel George Kranske, a member of the Louisiana National Guard and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom like Robicheaux. "They tell us thanks for what we're doing, and for protecting the country. It sounds so simple, so plain, but it was good knowing we had the support of the country."

That appreciation is especially welcome at Christmas

"Getting something special from your hometown is good," Robicheaux said.

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Sign up for e-mail Newsletter

In order to assure holiday cards and packages reach military APO/FPO addresses, the deadline for Express Mail Military Service (EMMS) - available to selected military post offices - is today.

Go to usps.com/news for information.

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