

Date: Monday, March 12, 2012, 4:58 AM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

To Mr. Hirsch, Ms. Mcgregor-Williams, and the staff of OPSHBXJN,  
Please accept my thanks for the work you are doing. Please know that your packages are providing both the moral and tangible support that we need, especially in the more remote outposts such as ours. Generally our needs are well met, but your packages are often our only source for the comforts of larger bases that rarely reach our home out here – a makeshift outpost smaller than a football field and crammed full of hungry and smelly troops badly in need of hygiene products and tasty snacks!

The items we receive are certainly valued, but I think the greatest gift is the knowledge that folks back home really do care. I might speak frankly and share my personal belief that the efforts of your organization and its volunteers, and others like it, are giving the troops of my generation a sense of purpose and pride that may have been lacking in prior conflicts (whether they know it or not). Perhaps it is the memory of the trials endured by your generation that drives you, or perhaps something different. In any case, it is with sincere appreciation that I can say I know nothing of those trials, only the love and pride of my countrymen, demonstrated through your care packages. For that I thank you,

TSgt Robert T. Steiner  
JTAC  
C Co, 1-125 IN, 37th IBCT  
COP Fortitude  
Kunduz Province, Afghanistan

P.S. I have mailed a letter separately for Ms. Michele Macheska, the Girl Scout who made our particular packages possible. However, if you see her, please let her know her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Truly, she and her peers are hope itself.

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