

All,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for sending your gift to me and my Soldiers. We really do appreciate the time, money and effort it takes for you to show your support. It's easy to slap a bumper sticker on your car that says "Support the Troops", but your actions show what real support is.

I am currently the Sergeant Major (SGM) for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's G2 (Intelligence) section at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. We started our tour in May 2011 and expect to return to Fort Hood, Texas in April 2012. I am responsible for more than 230 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and civilians that provide intelligence support to our Commanding General as well the subordinate units in Regional Command-East.

On a personal note - My home town is Douglas, Wyoming and I have been in the military for 24 years (20 active and four in the National Guard). I have been married to my wife, Shay, for 21 years and we have two children. Maeghan, 19, graduated from high school last year and is now living on her own and working on college classes. Griffin, 17, will graduate from high school next year, shortly after I return from this deployment. We live on about nine acres near Fort Hood and I spend a lot of my limited free time keeping the grass cut and the trees trimmed.

Just like many Soldiers nowadays, I am on my 5<sup>th</sup> overseas deployment (3<sup>rd</sup> time in combat), with tours in Kuwait, Kosovo and two in Iraq before this one. We have benefitted from the kindness and generosity of folks just like you every single time and I always try to take the time to say thanks.

The family picture below was taken on the day I deployed from Fort Hood, back in March. The other one shows me working out on the heavy bag that my parents donated to our gym here. Another great example of support from home.

Thanks again.

SGM Eric Fowler  
CJTF-1 (CJ2)  
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