Packages have been flowing steadily from the great personnel and volunteers at Operation Shoebox and for this we are truly grateful. Not only does this organization provide soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with a variety of items, girl scout cookies being the most popular, but it gives meaning beyond words to the phrase "it's the thought that counts". To know that Americans take time out of their day to donate, package, and deliver these items as a way to show that they care about and support the United States Military is truly a blessing and contributes to morale of everyone on a greater level than imaginable. Many of these packages are distributed to soldiers these people have never met and likewise for the soldier, which makes these care packages carry an even greater meaning. I personally have received boxes from Operation Shoebox on four different occasions and have only known the sender personally on one of those occasions. With this being said, one of the operating bases in Iraq has sustained a horrific attack, and countless service members have lost their living quarters and everything they own. I have forwarded one box at this time over to the base and will continue to do so as I receive packages. With all of your support it is my hope that with collaborated effort we are able to replenish some of what was lost, morale being at the top of that list. Once again, I thank you on behalf of service members across Iraq and am proud to defend what it means to be an American.

Very Respectfully,

SPC Michael Grella
25 ID, United States Division- Central Iraq