

From: Stroud SgtMaj Ricky W RC(SW) 2d CEB Battalion SgtMaj

Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 08:52

Subject: Thank you

Jane,

Greetings from Afghanistan! The Marines and Sailors from 2d Combat Engineer Battalion have received care packages from Operation Shoebox NJ. I want to thank the organization and all the patriotic volunteers that sacrifice their personal time and efforts to ensure that all the Marines and Sailors in my battalion receive a little love from back home. Operation Shoebox NJ is a wonderful organization that has continued to support all the service members in harm's way. We are truly grateful that we have outstanding Americans back home that believe in us and support us daily. As we serve here in Afghanistan, many of us endure numerous emotional events and it can be tough to get through the pain. I know that many Americans support our efforts and we do appreciate every bit of it. I just want to also remind the many folks back home that we have outstanding family members that endure most of the pain as we do here. I think that we need to thank the military families for their unwavering support and dedication to their own service member that is not there to help them with children, house repairs, and anything that may not be of a routine nature. Your organization has been remarkable in our endeavors and we are proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. I have attached a photo of a few of my Marines and Sailors with the care packages. It was amazing to see how much stuff was in each box. The guys really enjoyed picking through the large quantity of item and there was plenty to go around. I ask that you remind your volunteer network that they are making a significant difference in many young men and women's lives. Their devotion to supporting each service member will forever hold a special place in their hearts. Because of the overwhelming support we all receive from Operation Shoebox NJ, we can enjoy some candy, share a short story, and continue to take the fight to the enemy. God bless you all for being there for us when we need it the most. Take care and God bless all the patriotic Americans and our grateful nation.

Semper Fidelis!

SgtMaj Stroud, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion

