

Christmas 2024 - Wonderful THANK YOU notes from our troops. (16 Pages)

Judy,

My team received five GIGANTIC boxes today full of snacks, stockings, holiday activities, books, lovely cards and letters, and much more. I cannot express our gratitude for everything that your organization has sent over to us and done for all US troops. Your support is truly amazing and is appreciated by every individual here! We are sharing these huge boxes with our entire Task Force and also saving our individual stockings for Christmas Day here. We are planning to get some pictures back to your team and respond to the letters that we received (if they have mailing addresses!!)

.... We put two of the boxes in the "free to grab/donation area" and they are already half empty--the **snowman soup** is a huge hit....

Thank you again for your kindness and including us in your thoughts/prayers during this Christmas season.

Semper Fi

V/R 1stLt Brett H., USMC
Engineering Operations Officer
CJTF-OIR, CJ Eng Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

🎄 🌲 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

👏 👏 **Wooh! Thank you for the Christmas stockings**
From: TASK FORCE Liberty.

We are truly grateful for your support.

Regina



Hi Judy,

Thank you SO much for the stockings! Everyone here loved them, and we were able to distribute additional stockings to other Airmen and Soldiers on the base who were also extremely thankful! I also want to thank **Charity Crossings** and the Elementary Schools that sent letters! A lot of the students asked if we could write back. Would you happen to have a point of contact at the school so we could send a general video to thank the students? I was able to get some pictures and will send them over this week. I hope you had a happy holiday and enjoy the new year. Thank you for what you do!

Miranda P. D TSgt USAF AFRC



Hi Judy,

Thank you so very much!! We received the boxes. We appreciate the generosity and all of you thinking of us. The letters from the kids are so sweet. We will definitely write them back.

Merry Christmas from Kuwait!

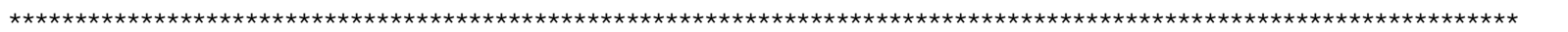
Very Respectfully, Jennifer F. TSgt, USAF
Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait



Good day ma'am,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and your team for making stockings for us. They're beautiful and such a pleasure to have while we are away from home. So thank you for all that you and your elves have done for us and for taking care of us and the home front.

Very Respectful, MATTISON B.



Hello! I wanted to express my gratitude for the stocking gift bags. I greatly appreciate the holiday cheer for my first time away from home. Thank you from all of us to you!

Happy Holidays! Elizabeth P. , SrA, USAF Emergency Management, Training



Hi Judy,

My name is SFC C. Williams Jr. My team just received some very heartfelt care packages from you and your team. We want to send a special thank you to each person who contributed, packed bags, and even took a moment of their day to think about the service members who cannot be home for the holidays. The holidays can be extremely difficult for all of us, especially those who have spouses, children, or have never been this far from home before. Tokens of appreciation such as these are what keep us going and are constant reminders of why we do what we do! I wanted to take a moment just to say thank you and we appreciate the gifts. They are appreciated more than you may ever know. We ask that you keep our families in your prayers as they are the real heroes. Thank you again and God bless you all! You are incredible!

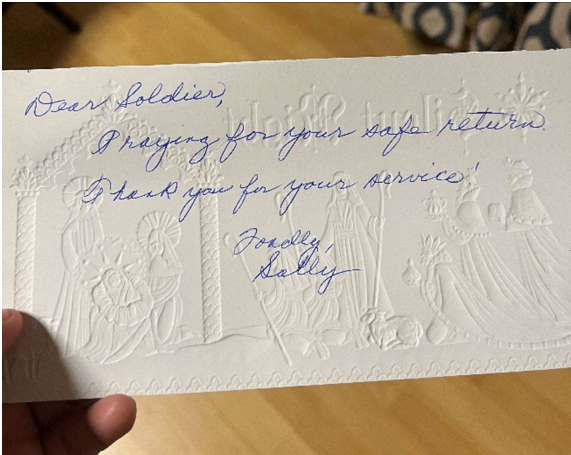
Respectfully,
C. Williams Jr.

SFC/USAR
Detachment Sergeant
976th Transportation Detachment (MCT)
Powidz / BPTA / LSA Eagle, Poland



I wanted to give a quick thank you message for the holiday care packages that were received at this base in Jordan. Much appreciated!
Happy holidays!
Gregory M. CW2 USARMY 310 ESC (USA)

.....
Thank you for the care package your team send to Germany. It really made our day knowing someone out there are thinking about us. Please see these pictures of my two soldiers. Our troop has around 80 SM and each one of them got their own stocking.
Thank you so much and happy holidays to you
-SGT Cotton



Hello Judy,

I want to thank you for sending the stockings full of goodies to our deployed airmen in the US and abroad. Each were very much appreciated. I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

KRISTOPHER J., MAJ, USAF, MSC

Commander/Director of Operations, 775th EAEF

Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762

Hi, I am a soldier that received a Christmas stocking from you and those that helped with it. I would like to say thank you to you and those that made it, I truly appreciate and love it so again thank you

Edwin L.



Good afternoon,

I'm emailing to say thanks for the Christmas Care Package and the stocking, I'm specifically trying to reach out to **Patty W**, who I assume made the stocking and the card inside, i wanted to tell them how much i appreciate it and hope they have a fantastic holiday season!

SGT Marcus W.

KFOR 34, TF AVN

D Co 1-183rd AHB

Dear Ms. Judy Travis (Chief Elf-in-

I just wanted to extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for all of the Christmas Stockings/Care Packages that you made for each of our Service Members. Being away from home during the holidays is a somewhat difficult thing to experience, but you (and all of your helpers) have given a DEFINITE highlight to our holiday season. Receiving all of the boxes and opening them felt like

Christmas to a lot of us, and we will be sure to disperse them to the various locations our other soldiers are currently located to spread the holiday cheer you've helped provide.

I have attached a few pictures of some of the members of my Unit receiving their individual stockings. Thanks for everything that you and your helpers do, and we greatly appreciate the joy you've caused in our Area of Operation!

Respectfully, SSG Logan C. 252nd Support Maintenance Co. Task Force Legion, Camp Buehring, Kuwait



Charge),



(This note from a Military Mom explains just what all families go through when their loved ones are in “Harm’s Way”. This is why our great, fun, humanitarian community project was started.)

Dear Judy, Julie, and all of the other Delaware & Pennsylvania Elves,

Stockings for Soldiers - what a wonderful, heartfelt mission! You are truly doing the Lord's work, and I can't think of a better way to act as the hands of God! Elves or Angels, apparently there is a fine line between the two! I don't know if you receive many thank you notes so I am writing on behalf of our son and his unit of 150+ fellow soldiers in our U.S Army. They have recently been deployed overseas with a mission to support NATO's Operation Atlantic Resolve and their written orders for the deployment are not to exceed 400 days. It's quite a long time to be away from all of the comforts and freedoms so many take for granted in our great country. Especially at the holidays, a time when gathering to share the love of family and friends is foremost in our lives.

Imagine my surprise this morning when my phone chimed at 5am (there is a 7-hour time difference) and our son sent photos of your thoughtful, generous gift. For our 22-year-old to share this, know that you have touched his heart. **For his mother, please know that your kindness means more than I can convey with a very heartfelt, *Thank you!*** There is a long line of talented women who quilt, craft, and sew in our family. A bit of love is put into every project created and I truly appreciate the time and talents that were invested in this mission! **I don't think anyone can truly appreciate the sacrifices made by those who serve our country until you witness it first-hand in your own family. Knowing he receives support like this is a comfort to me that I cannot explain.**

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas

& a New Year filled with Peace,

(Mrs.) E. N.

Proud Army Mom

Chicago, IL

Judy,

I'm sitting here in the Horn of Africa, preparing to spend Christmas away from my wife and 2 children back home. Most of the time, we're busy enough that it's easy to keep your mind from thinking about what we're missing. However, at the end of the day when it's quiet in my room, it can be hard.

Today was nice though. I was given your stocking and bag of goodies. I've got it hanging in my room as I listen to Christmas music. I plan on opening the stocking on Christmas morning :)

I'm thankful that people like you remember us as we're deployed.

Again, thank you. It really does mean a lot.

CPT Tim K. 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Salt Lake City, Utah serving in Horn of Africa



Dear Judy

Thank you so much for the Christmas stocking that my soldiers
and I received it means a lot to us especially during this time.

We appreciate you and your team for the kind gesture and all of the support.

Kevin R.



From: Alec R.

Dear Chief Elf-in-Charge ,

Just wanted to reach out with a warm thanks from all the soldiers in my section; your gifts and holiday wishes were a huge morale boost to everyone! Thank you for letting everyone know that they are being thought about this holiday season; especially those who may not be able to spend time with loved ones. I just wanted to reach out and ensure that you know your actions are very much appreciated by everyone and do not go unnoticed. Thank you again and have a wonderful holiday season!

Outstanding!

Merry Christmas to you all TEAM!

JOSEPH C. COL, SC, DEARNG Commander
261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade
Always Signal Strong!

Ms. Travis,

I just wanted to drop you a line and say thank you for the wonderful stocking that I received from Stockings for Soldiers. I am a service member who is away from home this Christmas, and I was truly blessed by the gesture. Thank you so much for taking the time to make these for us, and for all the goodies inside.

I wish you and yours a very Merry and blessed Christmas.

Very respectfully, M. Oram

Dear Judy,

Thank you so much for the Christmas stockings for me personally and from all my fellow soldiers! We don't get a ton of nice things, so this goes a really long way. Thank you also to **Paige** for the kind note. Merry Christmas. God Bless you and your wonderful team.

Sincerely,

SPC Christopher T.



Merry Christmas I'm specialist Jason K. from 417th engineer company. Just wanted to say that I really appreciate the work that you do. Getting a stocking that has my first name on it obviously took some time and coordination between yourself, your volunteers and my leadership. I think it's a wonderful idea and stands out and makes it feel personal compared to a generic care package with hygiene products. Warmed my heart just that little bit more. The holidays have been harder for me but this gave me a little extra to keep me going until we're home. Merry Christmas to you and Happy New Year

Jason K.

Thank you to the entire Stockings for Soldiers – Delaware Inc. Team for the incredible gifts to our deployed location. The stockings were super special and brought so much love and comfort from home. I hope the New Years finds everyone happy, healthy and safe. Thank you again from Saudi Arabia for the holiday cheer.

Be well, ~Jess McW.

Hi Judy!

This is SPC Rivera from the 305th Engineer Company out of Miramar, CA. I just wanted to say thank you for the care package! It really means a lot especially out here on deployment. I love the stocking!

I hope you have a great Christmas!! :)



.....

Judy,

I received your Christmas stocking and am very grateful for the gift and your thoughts during this time away from home. I know the other soldiers were equally grateful especially as they had their name on the stocking. Thank you and wishing you a Happy New Year!

Christopher C. COL, AR Commander

56 SBCT / TF INDEPENDENCE

JMTG-U

.....



Hello,

Our battalion received multiple boxes of care packages today with personalized Xmas stockings and much more goodies. On behalf of my company, I would like to say thank you so much, from all of us. The thank you cards mean the world to us. Merry Christmas from all of us here.

TF Sawtooth, KFOR 34 AVN

Dennis B.

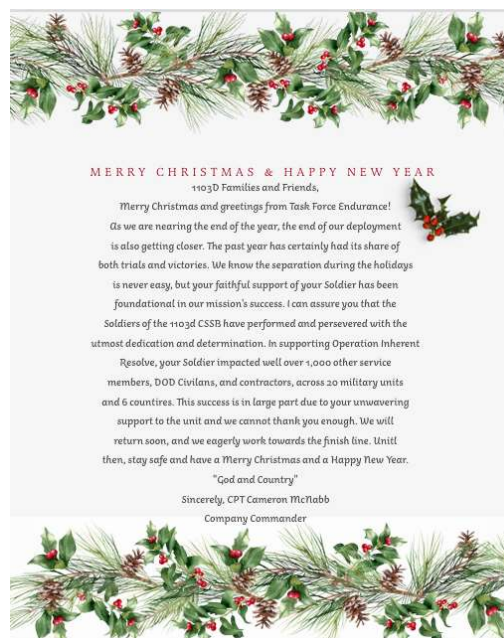
1SG, IDARNG A Co 1-183rd AVN REG

Judy,

I just wanted to extend a HUGE thank you and your team! The stockings were received last week, and we were able to pass them out to the Soldiers. They were well received and appreciated so much! Adding the first name on the stockings makes the gift feel personalized and helps get us through the Holidays.

This is a wonderful program, and I hope y'all can continue it for years to come! I have also attached our unit Christmas Card for you to share with everyone, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,
SFC Kayley W.
First Sergeant
HHC 1103D CSSB





Kristin R.

I wanted to reach out to say thank you so much for the handmade stocking and care package items!
I appreciate it so much!

Thank you again and thank you for supporting us while we're deployed during the holidays and making things a little brighter!

Thank you from the 261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade (TTSB)
Forward Element

Chief Elf-In-Charge,

Wanted to let you know **a couple hundred if not a thousand Soldiers received your stockings in Southwest Poland**. I wasn't able to get as many photos as I'd like to, but I do know the contents of every care package stocking didn't last long and were spread across five different sites in Poland.

I came across some letters from your 2nd and 5th grade students. I wrote back to two children from each grade and the envelope has your name on the ATTN line under **Lancashire Elementary**.

Hopefully the envelope arrives and letters make their way to the student classrooms. Thank you for putting all this together. I know many care packages and letters go unanswered or rarely responded to, so I tried to do my part to let you know on behalf of everyone, we appreciate your time and effort.



Grant R.

Judy,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and your team for what you do for Soldiers while we are deployed. Your thoughtful work certainly helps to bring some love to a time where many of us may have some degree of depression. While the Army tries hard to keep our spirits up, nothing matches the feeling of home.

For your efforts I have flown a flag in your honor. This will come with a certificate, signed by me, and an American flag that you can put in a flag box. Thank you again for what you do for my military family and me... Please respond with an address where I can send our country's colors.

Very respectfully,

Scott M. MAJ/USAR/SP J-35, Medical Crisis Planner Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa
Surgeon Cell, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti

To Friends and supporters,

On behalf of the Soldiers from the 261st TTSB forward, thank you. Thank you for the individual stockings, that was a great surprise to all of us. We are very appreciative of the selection of candy, top ramen, books, DVDs, personal hygiene items, etc. They will be used, read, and viewed.

For some, this is their first Christmas deployed, others within the formation have previous deployments. Regardless of how many deployments we have, it is always tough being away from family during this time of year. We were excited, like kids opening presents on Christmas morning when the packages arrived, smiles getting even bigger when we saw our individualized stockings (fully stuffed).

Our gratitude cannot be explained in an email, please see the attached video of the Soldiers you are providing moments of happiness.

Please pass this email and video along to all the organizations that support us from the great state of Delaware!

<https://dvidshub.net/r/rzumrm>

V/r,
LTC Aaron B.
ACofS G6 (FWD)
U.S. Army Central (USARCENT)
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Dear Ms. Travis (Chief Elf-in-Charge),

I just wanted to thank you and your team for the stockings and supplies that we received here in Germany. As the Senior Logistician for Task Force Independence, I know how much planning and effort go into doing a mission like this. The personalized stockings and messages were a wonderful surprise and brightened the holidays for all of us. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate the work and good wishes you and your team provided us while we are away from our homes and families.

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2025!

Sincerely, Major Jed V. Brigade Sustainment Officer

Hello. I am CW2 George C. in B CO 115th BSB 1ABCT,1CD. I want to thank everyone who sent holiday boxes and stockings to our unit. Speaking for myself, I appreciate it and I know the soldiers do also. May you all have a blessed year.

George C.

.....

Mrs. Travis,

I'd like to personally thank you for being so kind to send a wonderful care package to myself and My unit members. Thank you and God Bless You and your family!

V/r
STUART K. CW4, OD 1836TH TC, KUWAIT CAMP BUEHRING

Good morning, Judy. I hope and pray all is well. Please find the below pictures from our Christmas Stocking distro. With your help, we were **able to pass out stockings to our entire Battalion**. Keep in mind, my Battalion is the largest in theater over three different sites. Thank You so much!

CH Wood



.....

Hi Ms. Travis, happy Holidays from the deployed soldiers in Hungary! The snacks and toiletries are much appreciated. I myself am from Newark, DE, just a hop skip from Wilmington, so it's wonderful to get these gifts from somewhere so close to home. Thank you so much for what you do and Happy Holidays!

- SPC. Kevin McV. and the grateful elves of Hound Company, 2-2

.....

Dear Ms. Judy Travis,

I wanted to send my sincerest and warmest thank you to you, the volunteers, and kids who put together the stocking, cards, and all the snacks. It was greatly appreciated. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks again for all you do.

Blessings,

JERROD T., Maj, USAF, BSC

Camp Titan Medical Clinic OIC

Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa



Judy,

Thanks to you and your team for the care package! It made it to Jordan and was a wonderful surprise seeing it today. The stocking was a nice touch.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MSG Justin C. 138th FAB, Task Force Thunder

Ma'am,

Wishing you a very blessed holiday season! I wanted to share a picture with you of the Soldiers enjoying their gifts!

We were able to pass them out on Christmas morning and everyone was very touched.

From all the Soldiers and their families, Thank you for everything!

John S.

Executive Officer Strike Company, 2-2 IN REG, 10th MTN DIV



(We sent 67 boxes to Germany to Hohenfels and Grafenwohr. They are Army training camps.)

Yes, they all arrived. 🎉 The first batch of boxes went on a military plane to Poland. Mark also shared stockings with single soldiers here .

Saturday, he dropped off stockings to the SAG-U soldiers in Grafenwöhr. He then drove 10 hours yesterday to Poland to deliver the rest of them. He will be home tonight.

I believe every deployed, single soldier in SAG-U was taken care of. 💜

It definitely makes a difference for these young men and women deployed and away from their families. They (we) are God's angels for doing this 🙏❤️ .

.....

Ms. Travis,

Thank you for the care package, we greatly appreciate it. Please let your students know that they helped bring us some holiday cheer. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Very respectfully,

Russell H.

SGT/INARNG 338th Signal Company

Dear Judy,

I wanted to personally thank you for the care package and Christmas card from Debbie. It's a tough time of year to be away from family and your package helps make my work environment feel like home. I've hung the stocking by my "Chimney" and hope you don't mind me digging into the snacks early.

God bless you and your organization for all you do.

Respectfully, GABRIEL M., Task Force Redleg S1 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI)

CJTF-OIR 🐪

Ms. Travis,

... Thank you ... The box was much bigger than I anticipated. I shared the stockings with my children who loved them. The stars from the flags were distributed among our unit headquarters, and others sent to our counterparts who are deployed. The non-labeled stockings were provided to the local families of our deployed Soldiers. All appreciate your kindness. Thank you so much!

Respectfully, Lyndsee L. CPT, SP Commander, 19th Surgical Detachment

Ms. Judy Travis,

On behalf of the 142d Military Police Brigade, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the handmade Christmas stockings and thoughtful snacks. The personal touch and attention to detail in each stocking made them truly special. Your kindness reminded our deployed service members that we are not alone, and it helped ease the homesickness during the holidays. Knowing that friends and neighbors like you are thinking about us means more than words can express. God Bless!

MSG Jennifer M. JTF-GTMO

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU for the personalized stockings and all the goodies you sent on our deployment to the Middle East! We appreciate your time, effort and generosity you put forth putting all that together! Being away from our families was hard during the holiday season, but you helped make our holidays brighter!



If we can ever do anything to help you all, please let me know!

Thanks again!

Rebecca P.
1140th EN
BN
Kuwait



Hey Judy,

Wanted to reach out and say thank you for the Christmas stockings that your group provided to us deployed Service-members.

I appreciate you all and hope that the holiday season went well!

Very respectfully,

Ryne B.



Hello Judy & Teammates,

Thank you so much for the care packages. it is Truly appreciated during Gloom Season.

Please extend my gratitude to Joey, William, Valentina, Avery, malia

You are truly appreciated

SFC Garcia

.....

Thank you, Ms. Travis.

There are no words to properly thank you for your kindness and love sent to the soldiers who are deployed. I am retired, but have been deployed in the past, and I know how wonderful it is "to get something from home." Any act of kindness and thoughtfulness goes so very far. Your efforts appears to me to have set a new level of support. I am really touched to hear what you have done for the deployed soldiers of the 142d.

Thank you, Ma'am.

Sincerely,

Howard B.

Logistics, Sr. Principal

Hi Judy,

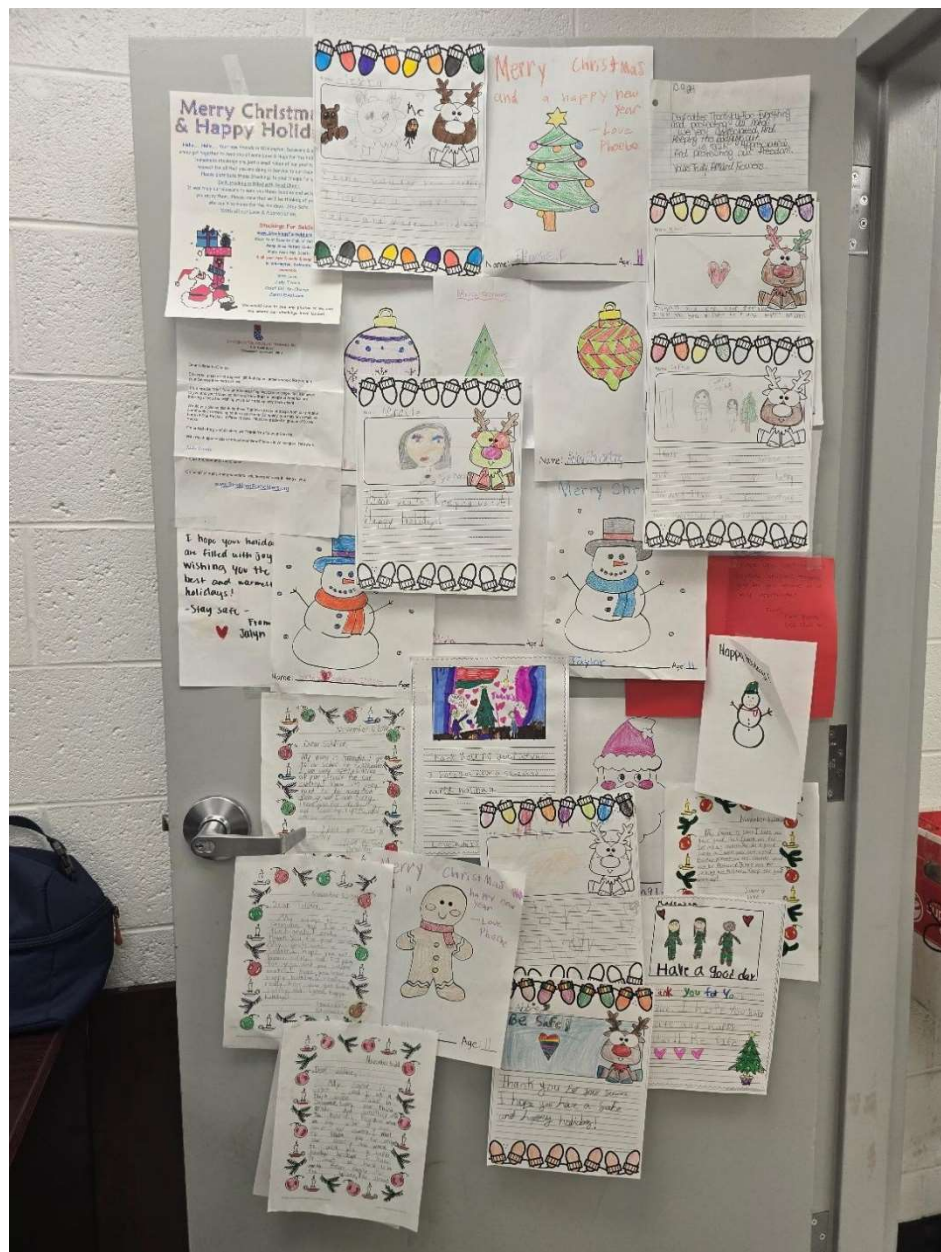
Greetings from the Texas border! I just wanted to send out a quick note to say thanks for all the stockings. Our soldiers out here were ecstatic when they arrived. You and your little elves have brightened our day tremendously. I know a good number of our troops were unable to go home for the holidays and knowing that you and your kiddos were thinking of us brings joy to us all. Please pass on our appreciation to them as well.

From the soldiers in the Tactical Support Company of Operation Lonestar in El Paso, Texas...

We Salute You.

SSG Erin C.

OLS-TFW_TSC Supply NOCIC



FYI: [Military Units: Army \(defense.gov\)](https://www.defense.gov/military-units/)

According to the U.S. Dept. of Defense, the U.S. Army consists of the following members:

- # of people in a **Platoon** – 36 Service Members
- # of people in a **Company** – 200 Service Members
- # of people in a **Battalion** – 1,000 Service Members
- # of people in a **Brigade** – 5,000 Service Members
- # of people in a **Division** – 15,000 Service Members
- # of people in a **Corps** – 45,000 Service Members

For the past **21 years**, **Stockings For Soldiers** has sent **160,000** stockings to our deployed troops and **343 tons** of Goodies.

Each year, we have sent approximately 8,000 to 10,000 stockings.

Amazingly, we have supported over **10 Divisions** of our great U.S. troops over the years. **Yeay!!**

THANK YOU to all who have helped us to achieve these great accomplishments.



Thank You to all our troops for sending us so many wonderful and great messages of their appreciation. These emails serve as our inspiration for **Stockings For Soldiers** to continue to try to “make a positive difference” in their lives.

Our main Mission is to make sure our troops know that they have not been forgotten by the American people.

Thank You, again, to all the Members of the Military who have volunteered to Serve our great Country and we Thank their families.

"They also serve who only stand and wait." **

Thank You to our many amazing Team Leaders and volunteers who work with us each year to make our project possible.

Judy Travis

Project Founder & Coordinator

**** From John Milton's "When I Consider How My Light is Spent."**

We'll look forward to seeing you all in

October 2025

