



## **Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois**

### **Gift of Caring: Cookies for Soldiers**

***2010 soldier's e-mails of "THANKS" for our GS Cookies. I reply to every soldier's e-mail, explaining how our Girl Scouts sold 27,000 boxes. The following is just a small sampling . . .***

**Sent: 10/29/2010 5:35:21 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: THANK YOU** Hello, My name is Daniel Morrison, I'm sending this e-mail to thank Natalie of Girl Scout Troop 944 and Kali of Troop 51103. I want to thank the two young ladies for the cookies I received from them today and to let them both know that I'm very grateful for the both of you thinking about the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines that are serving overseas. I've always seen the Girl Scout program as a perfect way to make a positive impact on all girls, and young women of America. Looking at the decorations on the boxes, seeing the time and effort that was put into getting these cookies out to me, shows me that the program is doing an excellent job. I'm sure your parents are proud of the both of you cause I am. Keep up the good work, and thank you again for the cookies.....they are two of my favorite as well (Caramel deLites and Thin Mints) : ) I'll try to share .ok, ok, I will : ) Unfortunately I'm unable to take pictures and send them where I'm currently located but I really wanted to take the opportunity to say Thank You. Sincerely -- Daniel D. Morrison AO2(AW) USN

**Subject: THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!** Dear "Operation Care Package Gang", Hello, my name is Daniel Morrison. I am a 12 year veteran of the US Navy and I'm currently deployed onboard the USS Harry S. Truman working in a FA-18C squadron. If you've ever seen the movie "Top Gun" all the stuff happening on the ship is what I do every day, only, I do it at night. Working on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier is hectic and is describe often as "organized chaos". The days are stressful, tiring, dangerous and never ending. Today I came into work and noticed that there had been another mail call. I don't pay much attention to the mail calls cause I normally don't get anything. The fact that I have no wife or children and that my immediate family seems to forget that I'm deployed, I don't look for nor do I expect any letter mail or care packages for me. My heart almost stopped as they were sorting through the mail calling out names and my name was called. I can't express the level of shock that I had but I'm sure if someone would have taken a picture at that very moment of my face that the picture would have said it all. Its no secret that I don't get care packages, in fact when my name was called everyone kind a paused a moment and watched as the package was being handed to me. They all smiled and asked who it was from, I was anxious to know as well. I looked at the return address and saw "Debbie Pat & OCP Gang", and all I could think was "Huh?" Let it be known that it was the 1st care package I've gotten on this deployment that we have been conducting for little over 5 months now. I tore that package open like I was a 6 year old kid on Christmas Day to find so many snacks and hygiene items that I either wanted or needed. I found the letter in which all who were involved with putting together that package had signed and I had a list of email addresses. I can't explain how grateful and thankful that I am. GOD will do many good things for you all for what you all are doing for each Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine out here. Thank-you so much for letting me know that I'm not forgotten. I can't speak on our schedule via email, but I don't know of anyone who will be deployed during the holidays, if find out, I will pass their name to the OCP Gang!! May GOD Bless each one of you. Thank you so much!! If there is anyone who is responsible for this care package that I didn't have an email address for, please do me a favor and extend my gratitude to them. Sincerely, Daniel D. Morrison AO2(AW) USN

**Sent: 11/2/2010 2:44:38 P.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: Thanks from Iraq!** Hello Troop # 550, Hi my name is SGT Hawkins, Christopher. I am currently deployed to COS Kalsu, Iraq with 3d ACR. I have been in the army a little over four years and am on my second deployment. I can't say how much

it means to me to have someone as great as you to take a little bit of your own time to think of someone else. This is a great quality I like to live by as well. The cookies are amazing and it is a great night in Iraq for me tonight. God bless you. --- Christopher Hawkins

**Sent: 11/2/2010 3:24:34 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj:** Dear Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Hi, my name is Jose Alvarez with 1st Air Delivery based out of Camp Pendleton, CA. I just received a package with your cookies enclosed and wanted you to know how grateful I am for this thoughtful gesture, it really raises morale, knowing there are still people that appreciate the military service and take time from their lives to show it. With our sincerest gratitude, Jose Alvarez, Brandon Ellis, Jose Delva, Travis Metrovich, Alejandro Uribarri, Waco Holveburk, Timothy Hummel, Charles Perry, Matthew Riley, Derek Cox, Samuel Helt, Mark Ellis

**Sent: 10/31/2010 9:58:02 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj:** girl scout cookies

Dear Anna from troop#248

Your cookies made it all the way to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Myself, Specialist Lopez, and our interpreters enjoyed the thin mints on Halloween morning. We are from the 96th M.P. Battallion out of San Diego Ca. Our mission in Afghanistan is to man Entrance Check Point 4 into Bagram Air Base, we look for bombs and weapons on the vehicles and personal entering the base.

We appreciate the cookies, its good to have the girl scouts looking out for us! Thank you for your prayers and support. --- CPL Matzke 96th M.P. BN. Baf Afghanistan

**Sent: 10/29/2010 4:02:12 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj:** Thank you

I am Airman 1st Class Mendelson from the United States Airforce and I wanted to thank Taylor from Troop #703 for the girl scout cookies I received. We all appreciate the support and of course the goodies we receive from back home. Thank you!

**Sent: 10/28/2010 12:51:01 P.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj:** OCP- MAJ Erik Heinz (Saudi Arabia) Hello Everyone!! I have no idea where to start in regards to thanking you. Your kindness and generosity over the past months have been amazing! Thank you so very much for taking care of my soldiers and myself. Everything has been a huge hit and perfect! I am extremely touched by your commitment to our Armed Forces that are deployed. I was spoiled by kind people such as yourselves last year in Afghanistan, now it continues in Saudi Arabia. Work is going well. My soldiers and I are training Saudi Arabian soldiers that are responsible for providing tactical communications supporting 4 Mechanized Infantry Brigades, the Signal Schoolhouse and the Signal HQ's. We are living 2 weeks a month out on their bases in the desert and then come in for some Admin work and reset. This mission is much different than my Combat Advisor time in Afghanistan. We drive Chevy Tahoes & Yukons. We carry concealed weapons with us. The threat here is more car bombings and kidnappings. Not one of my soldiers are ever by themselves. All of my guys are combat tested, which makes our job a little easier. I am attaching a picture of my Team with some civilian contractors from this morning. We conducted some refresher training with Advanced driving techniques; J-turns, ambush clearance, ramming, Deadman takeover and pursuit scenarios. I am the Gorilla in the middle with the peach shirt and hat. As you can see, we are all sporting the DELICIOUS cigars that were graciously donated in our last box. My heart stopped and I could swear that I heard Angels singing when we pulled them out of the box!!! =) Trisha, please give a special thank you to Dennis for us. Amazing!!!! We are very low maintenance and are grateful for everything that you all have provided. We even got Girl Scout cookies from Troop #4212 from the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. I was trying to get my guys together to take a picture with the boxes of cookies; well I have to apologize. It seems that there is something more exciting than cigars.....COOKIES! They were gone in 10 min!!!! I didn't even have time to grab my camera. Hannah (Troop #4212), thank you SO much Sweetie!! You are the best. Please thank your fellow Girl Scouts for the wonderful support. Please be safe and have a great school year!! My Team is extremely grateful. We Love You All. God Bless you and please have a safe Halloween. MAJ Erik Heinz, Senior Signal Combat Advisor (Gurnee, IL) - DA BEARS!!!!!!

**Sent: 10/19/2010 6:50:56 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: THANKS**

OCP, MOM's cookies, and the wonderful Girl Scouts! We the 8 men of Coast Guard LEDET team #404 stationed out of Florida are so grateful for your consideration and kindness. We are currently deployed in the Gulf of Aden conducting anti-piracy operations as part of UN multi national task force. Many of us have been away from home and our families for quite sometime, and your gifts truly brightened our days. We couldn't help ourselves, and many of the goodies sent were soon devoured. We felt taking a little time from operations to send out a small token of appreciation was more than in order. Once again, thanks to all, and enjoy the pictures. Respectfully, BM2 Kelly "Old Man" Martin

**Sent: 10/24/2010 7:22:50 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Sub: THANKS**

I have received some Girl Scout cookies since I've been over here. Thank you to Chessie for the delicious Cranberry cookies, I can't find the paper that had her troop number on it, and Kayla from Rockford, IL Trp# 382, as well as Beth from Trp# 4261. I've enjoyed the cookies, thanks again. Have a fun and safe Halloween --- SPC. Joel Adkins

**Sent: 10/9/2010 9:20:50 P.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: A Note of Thanks**

My name is Greta and I am the wife of Tsgt Daniel Barninger who is currently deployed. We live in Youngstown, Ohio and we are an Air Force family. I just received a copy of your email from him about what the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Operation Care Packages and Fox Valley Troops have provided in support of our troops in Afghanistan. I was a Girl Scout for years and loved doing these kind of community projects! I am awestruck of the drive each and every one of you have to not only meet but, exceed the goal! Helping to take care of our loved ones touches the soul. I am grateful for your kindness and I am proud of you. You are our Heroes! --- Greta and Emily Barninger

**Sent: 10/20/2010 6:32:44 P.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: Thank you for the cookies Kayla (Troop 4892)**

Dear Kayla of Troop 4892 & Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, Thank you for the Trefoils, Old Fashioned Shortbread cookies!! Those are my absolute favorite!! I received this box of cookies with a welcome packet this week when I arrived at the Civilian Based Warrior Transition Unit at Rock Island, Illinois. I am recovering from an injury and it was a great to have a box of cookies. While I was in Iraq, we usually didn't have time to eat a decent meal and most of the time we just ate a lot of snacks during missions. My choice of mission food was whatever girl scout cookies we received, slim jim's and coffee. My Soldiers and I really enjoyed receiving letters and packages from people back home. It was especially nice to receive something from our scouts! You may think that something like a box of cookies or a letter won't mean that much to a Soldier, but trust me it makes a huge difference. We chose to serve and the only thing we hope for is that our sacrifices are appreciated and those we fight for do not forget us. Please know that you and your Girl Scouts are making a positive influence around the world. Again, thank you for the cookies and your support. I hope all of you continue with the Girl Scouts, it is a noble organization and teaches our young women so much. MSG Jason Taylor

**Sent: 4/18/2010 10:54:49 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: Iraq girl scout cookies** To: Girl Scouts-Fox Valley Council-Illinois Dear Sarah from Troop 302, My name is Sergeant First Class Robb Zimmer, I belong to a specialized team located far south in Iraq. The team I belong to is called a FST or Forward Surgical Team. We have a very important job, we treat and care for all US soldiers that get hurt here in Iraq. Without our Doctors and medics, a lot of people would never have the opportunity to go home and see their families again. It makes us all so happy when we can save a soldiers life and give them the opportunity to go home.

The team and myself have been here for a very long time. It's absolutely wonderful to receive a gift like the cookies you sent us because it reminds us of home and makes us feel so special that someone remembers and care for us too. We thank you very much for your continued support and prayers. Please continue to remain active in the Girl Scouts. And, continue remaining active in your community. Again, thank you very much. -- SFC Robb Zimmer

**Sent: 5/1/2010 4:46:44 A.M. Central Daylight Time / Subj: WOW! THANKS**

Hello All, How are you? I hope all is well. I want to thank you all so much from the HHD 110th CSSB for the box of goodies. There was plenty to go around. You all are doing an amazing thing and it's so appreciated. I tried to get as many pictures as I could but unfortunately we all work different shifts and it's almost impossible to get us all together at one time. I was able to catch a few of the smiles and wanted to pass them on to you all. Included in the pictures are myself, co-workers, and I even got our 1SG and our Commander. I put the letter on the wall in my office where everyone can read it and I wish you could see the smiles. I made sure to put all the goodies in our admin office for everyone to share. Your thoughtfulness and caring has brought us such warmth and thankfulness. We all miss our family and friends and to know that there are such caring people like yourselves brings that little piece of home here. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as well as your support. I hope these pictures bring a smile to your faces as did your package of yummys to ours. I have the pictures hanging in my office as you can see in one of the pictures. The girls are so thoughtful for taking the time and hard work to add that personal note taped to the boxes of cookies .I thank all of you for your time and hard work. From the letter ,there seems to have been so many involved in this project. Please pass our thanks to them as well. We all send hugs and thanks for all you have done to get these packages to the troops as well as all the support from home. Sincerely, Steph Maniglia **THANK YOU !**

***None of the above soldier e-mails would have been to be sent to us, if it wasn't for your dedication to coloring the pages and attaching to every Girl Scout Cookie box. Your coloring pages have touched so many hearts! Let's keep this awesome service project going until all of the Men and Women Soldier return home!***