

## MILITARY

# Collection underway for Randolph troops deployed in Afghanistan

Randolph residents deployed in Afghanistan will appreciate donations of items that are unavailable to them overseas this winter.

Bank of Canton's Randolph branch is collecting items on behalf of the Family Readiness Group of the Massachusetts National Guard, 181 ENGR CO, to be sent to five Randolph residents deployed in Afghanistan in an effort to make them feel a little closer to home.

Denise Woolf of the Family Readiness Group is the mother of Michael Astrofsky, a Randolph Police officer who is among the five deployed Randolph residents.

"The soldiers rely on family members, friends and other organizations to

provide them with certain items that are not available to them while overseas," Woolf said. "Seeing that it's wintertime in Afghanistan, the temperature can drop to below zero, and there's a shortage of blanket and pillows."

All donations should be brought to Bank of Canton, 67 North Main St., in downtown Randolph, Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Residents of Randolph are risking their lives halfway around the world to serve and protect the United States," said Stephen P. Costello, President, Bank of Canton. "We want to do whatever we can to help make their

deployment a little easier while they are separated from their families."

The following items are needed: blankets, pillows, cold medicine, antacids, Motrin, deodorant, toilet paper, Chapstick, Q-tips, wash cloths, body wash, hand/body lotion, hair scrunchies, bobby pins, nail clippers and files, female items, baby wipes, magazines, Parmalat milk, cereal bars, granola bars, trail mix, peanut butter, gum, crackers and canned fruit.

The Family Readiness Group is a fully sanctioned organization comprised of military service family members devoted to enhancing the quality of life for all military members and their families during deployment.