January 2012 Issue 15

SoldiersCarePackages.com

First Baptist Church, 85 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043 fbc.hingham@verizon.net 781-749-2516

CH (CPT) Randy Curry *in Afghanistan* SPC John P. Marquardt *in Afghanistan* Paul Mancuso *in Afghanistan* Kathy Marable *in Afghanistan* SPC John Regina *in Afghani-*stan SPC Ian Nadeau *in Kuwait* CPO Peter G. Maxon *in Mid East Fleet* Todd Livingston, Jr. *in Afghanistan* SPC Luis Barrera *in HI* Eric Burns *in Afghanistan*

Cumulative Stats

17,000 lbs. of donations have been shipped since 2005.

\$25,500 raised from community donations since 2007.

39 Point Leaders since 2005 (some serving multiple times).



Great NeWS.....

We now have a dedicated website <u>www.SoldiersCarePackages.com</u> representing our earnest efforts to support our deployed US Troops in the Middle East.

We are currently beginning to build online interest for <u>Soldiers Care Packages</u>. Be sure to *"friend"* us on <u>Facebook</u> (a page under G.t. Ludwig). Help get the word out. Invite your friends and family to "*friend"* us too.

And enjoy the new look of our newsletter!



Welcome home George Malouf and Timothy Ebbs



And Friday the 13th isn't always unlucky! **CPL TIMOTHY J. EBBS, USMC,** a young Hingham MARINE returned from Operation Enduring Freedom at 2:30 a.m. on Friday, January 13, to his Chestnut Street home. He was given an official Welcome Home initiated by the Hingham Department of Veterans Service with a police escort and numerous US Flags placed in his yard.

Welcome Home Tim (left) ! Standing with Keith Jermyn, Director of Veterans' Services of Hingham.

It's one of those phone calls you always want to get. On December 9 we heard from his father that **SGT. GEORGE MALOUF** was safely back in the States.

We are proud of you, George, and so very glad you're home!



Thanks for the Halloween candy!

Our hallways and workroom were filled to capacity with your generous donations of Halloween candy. They were shipped immediately and each box included a message: "From our Hingham children." Wonderful tastes of home for our troops.







Warfighter Supporter,

I am deeply grateful for the support you have given the Soldiers of the 728th MP BN during our deployment. January is our 12th and final month in Afghanistan. We return home to Hawaii in a few short weeks.



Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. Life has

been sweeter and the morale of our Soldiers has remained high because of your dedication and giving.

Though I am leaving, the mission continues. Our unit will be replaced by the 716th MP BN from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I will give your contact information to my replacement, CH (CPT) Calvert. If you mailed a care package in January, it should be delivered to our camp and given to CH Calvert.

I truly cannot say 'thank you' enough. These words are simple but true. I have been blessed with smile after smile from a happy Soldier because I was able to give Oreos, Little Debbie's, tooth paste, shower gel or whatever else was wanted or needed. If there was such a thing as a 'happiness meter', ours would be off the charts because of you.



Again, thank you. May you see God's blessings today,

Randy CH (CPT) Randy Curry Task Force Warfighter 728th Military Police Battalion Camp Dubs, Afghanistan randall.p.curry@us.army.mil CPT Randy Curry (from the previous page) also wrote this article from the FINAL deployment-edition of their Battalion newsletter. It was so inspirational that it is included in our newsletter.

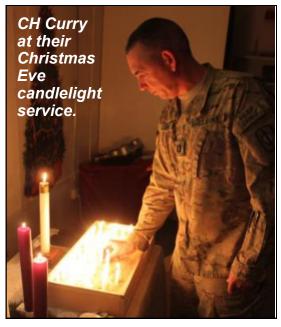
Almost Home

"I'm almost home." Such a simple phrase that means so much. Soldiers are repeating it and the excitement builds every time families hear it. Very soon we will be returning home.

I have often seen plaques that read "Home is where the Army Sends Us" in Soldiers' homes. There is truth in that—your home is the place where family and friends are. Soon families and friends will be together in one place and we will stop living in separate homes.

There are many passages in the Bible about reuniting and returning home. Luke records the parable of the lost son who left home with his share of his inheritance, wasted it all and then returns home. Though the lessons from this parable are many, the picture at the end is the same.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" Luke 15:20



Next month, when the Warfighters march into that building in Hawaii, we won't be a long way off from each other but it will feel like it. All of us will be filled with compassion and emotion. We will hear "dismissed" and we will run—wife to husband, children to parent, parent to a child. There will be hugs, kisses and tears. Then we will return to our homes.

What a great day that will be. Get ready because the Army is sending us home!

See God's blessings today. CH (CPT) Randy Curry 728th MP BN Chaplain



Care Packages being delivered.

Battalion Commander's Update

"Aloha," "Salam, chitor hasti" and "Salam, senga yastay" from TF Warfighter. Nawroz Mubarak or Happy New Year! We are currently writing our final chapter for TF Warfighter, but as you all know we will have Soldiers deployed in theater so please continue to keep the 127th MP Co, 164th MP Co, 307th MP Co, 549th MP Co (newly arrived), 58th MP Co and the 39th Law and Order Detachment in your thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of all the Soldiers and Leaders of TF Warfighter we want to thank all the supporters for keeping us in your prayers and for keeping our spirits high.

Organizations provided over 700 boxes in support of our Soldiers. What is not listed are the amount of boxes, letters, phone calls, text messages, Skype sessions, e-mails, etc. delivered to the Soldiers by family and friends. A simple "Thank You" is not enough, but know that you have made a profound difference in every Soldier in TF Warfighter.

I also want to thank the individual Soldier and Leader for believing in the American way and our Constitution. You will look back one day and know you were part of making history.

Lastly, your Soldier will continue to need your full support upon re-deployment. The mission is not over until reintegration is complete. Some of our Soldiers have been exposed to situations that are not natural and those Soldiers will need your understanding and patience. TF Warfighter understands that the strength of our Nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our Families.

LTC Ross T Guieb Commander, Task Force Warfighter 728th Military Police Battalion

> As printed in the *Ikaika o Na Koa* newsletter, Jan 2012 "News Covering the 728th MP BN serving in Afghanistan, Task Force Warfighter"



Hingham High School Student Council Community Service Committee

We are indeed thankful for HHS's generous contribution to our **Care Package** initiative. Jaclyn Gibbons (right) delivered a huge quantity of supplies. Other student leaders who should be recognized Charlotte Hambley, Christine Connolly, Lina Balta, and Hannah Collins.

The supplies donated were generous and essential. All packages were in the mail that week and on their way to the needy soldiers in the Middle East.



MANY THANKS HHS!



What do you think we should name him?

Our Care Package Mascot

Caught in the Act

So what was making these mysterious holes in our finished Care Packages? It seemed that every time we would put our Care Packages out on our porch to await the USPS pickup, something would happen. We should have put 2 and 2 together when we started noticing that our local squirrel was getting fatter. Smart little critter, no matter what we did. Finally when he spread peanuts and potato chips all over the porch and ate an entire package of brownies, we said that was it!

Now if you deliver any donations to our porch, you will see TWO chests, well marked. You can still use the same truck you have been using for your donations. But there will be a much larger, impenetrable chest in which we will place all our Care Packages while they are awaiting a pick-up.

OK, you can stop snickering now.

Kuwait

Nearly 15,000 soldiers are now deployed to Kuwait — including two brigade combat teams and a combat aviation brigade as the mission there evolves and the U.S. works to maintain a combat-capable presence in the unstable region.

> —Posted : Saturday Jan 14, 2012 ArmyTimes.com

One of our Point Leaders, **Ian Nadeau**, is stationed in Kuwait. Congratulations are in order for this exemplary Soldier; he was just promoted to Sergeant this month. Plus he has re-enlisted.



Current Donation Requests:

Protein bars, nuts, cans of fruit (small), gum, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, air fresheners, Icy Hot patches. All donations are sent immediately.

For other suggestions go to: *http://www.soldierscarepackages.com/html/needed_items.html*



The First Baptist Church will pack and ship items for you. Donations may be brought to the FBC Office in the building to the right of the church. There will be a donation box on the porch. FBC is in Hingham Square on the corner of Elm and Main Street, 2 doors up from Loring Theater.

Our "Point Leaders" are soldiers who receive our Care Packages and always have a connection with Hingham. They distribute donated items to their unit, focusing on the greatest need.

For those who prefer to send a financial contribution toward postage instead of shopping for items, it will be gratefully accepted. Please make a check out to First Baptist Church Benevolence Account and note "Care Packages Postage" on the memo line. Mail to 85 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043.



Each one of you is appreciated!