

Operation While You're Away (O-WYA) We're Still Thinking of You!



In September 2006, Marine Sergeant Will Drips, was deployed to serve in Iraq for 6 to 9 months. Sergeant Drips is the son of WYA's office coordinator, Peri Siepman Mills. His squadron is the Heavy Marine Helicopter 363. Their mission is to move cargo, supplies, and passengers in the Al Anbar province. Because their squadron was short of certain supplies, deployment to Iraq lacks certain qualities of life we all appreciate (and take for granted), and there are many emotional difficulties faced by those leaving behind family (especially during the holiday season), WYA and their employees seized the opportunity to provide a little comfort and holiday joy to the squadron, through Operation While You're Away (O-WYA).

In addition to supplies, gifts, and treats purchased by employees, WYA as a firm donated \$500 and paid for all the postage to ship the supplies overseas.

WYA also supported the shopping, coordination, and organization of O-WYA by two devoted and hard working staff members.

About thirty boxes were filled with goodies. The shipment was mailed the last first weeks of December. Most of the packages arrived before Christmas (a few were delayed) and the squadron was very thankful and appreciative. At WYA we are also thankful and appreciative of the men and women of the armed services, and for the empathy and generosity of our firm and fellow employees.

What Soldiers Asked For

Socks, Underwear, Gold Bond Foot Powder, Snacks/Food, Baby Wipes, Chapstick, Mechanix Gloves, Lotion, Magazines/Puzzle Books, Pillows/Sheets, Deodorant, Body Wash, Shampoo, Hand Sanitizer, Q-tips, Playing cards/Board Games, Phone Calling Cards, Christmas presents

“ I got the box of gloves yesterday!!! All the gloves were gone within 15 minutes of opening the box. The guys love them. They were so happy to get some good working gloves. They also do a pretty good job keeping their hands warm. I can't tell you how happy they were. ”

*Email from
Marine Sergeant Will Drips
December 21, 2006*

“ My name is Chris. I'm a SSgt in the same squadron your son William works in. Thank you for the outstanding items you sent to your son. I was running out of after shave and your packages came in right on cue. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks again. ”

*Email from
Marine Staff Sergeant
Chris Nino*