

A letter from Capt P, USMC was received thanking the AAP and BVA for their support. His name is left out given the specifics of the letter.

Greetings from Afghanistan,

We received your package just after Christmas Day, which, was definitely a welcome surprise. It is always great to have a package to open, even better to get one during the holidays.

We gave one the gloves (baseball) to an Air Force Clerk that always get our mail for us, while the other glove and cd player went to our junior marines.

Everything in the box came in handy, especially the hygiene items, which, we were running short of for a while. However, with our new mission change and your package, I think we are set pretty good for the next month or so.

I am the OIC (Officer in Charge) for a 17 man team tasked with advising and training an afghan army infantry battalion. Our missions change and develop according to how well our afghan Bn is doing.

Our team is organized to support each company in the Bn, so we often operate in 3-4 man teams with them. Quite a few times it is just my interpreter and I on our own. As you can imagine, access to the Px on these missions is out of the question and we travel light in the mountains.

Most of our missions include searching for IEDs, weapon caches, and patrols. We often hold a lot of security meetings in the villages and try to stay familiar with the elders. On a few occasions we support the DEA or ODA elements out here.

Weather has turned pretty cold lately, snows every few days. The mountains look beautiful, it just s\*cks climbing them!

Anyhow, thanks again for sending the care package, which I am sure took some time and effort. More importantly, thanks for thinking of us out here.

SemperFidilis  
Capt P