



Care Packages

TO DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBERS

Care packages sent to deployed locations are greatly appreciated by service members.

However, donors may not always be aware of the specific conditions and resource availability at these locations, which can result in items being discarded due to lack of need or damage from the climate.

Most deployed locations around the world have well-established infrastructure, including base exchanges where service members can purchase essential items. Shortages typically only occur when service members are assigned to new locations (bare base), particularly at the start of a new operation. Additionally, many locations provide widespread internet connectivity, allowing service members to access the internet and use

various apps to stay connected, which makes donations like phone cards unnecessary. Service members have access to fully stocked dining facilities (DFAC) offering a variety of meals. However, snacks and drink mixes are always appreciated, especially when operational duties prevent them from going to the DFAC.

Donors who send care packages often want to know if the items are well-received. To assist, we've provided a list of frequently requested items, as well as items that are unnecessary or harder to distribute. We also recommend including your name or your organization's name along with contact information, so service members have the opportunity to reply with a thank you.

Items frequently **REQUESTED** by service members

• **Snacks**

Individually packaged; Granola bars, trail mix, nuts, beef jerky, crackers, candy, Rice Krispies, etc.

• **Gum/Mints**

Especially "breath enhancers" when they can't always brush their teeth

• **Drink Mixes**

Single-serve packets

• **Wipes/Hand Sanitizer**

When showering is not possible

• **Chapstick**

Especially in extreme hot or cold environments

• **Decorations**

If sending boxes for Christmas or other holidays

• **Devotionals/Crosses**

Offers spiritual encouragement

• **Puzzle Books**

Word searches, crosswords, etc., for times when internet is down

• **Personal Care Items in Small Quantities**

Shaving cream, razors, lotion, female hygiene products, etc.

• **Letters/Cards/Drawings**

These are absolutely adored

Items **DIFFICULT** to give away to service members

• **Perishable Foods**

Items that require refrigeration or have a short shelf life, like fruit or dairy products.

• **Canned Foods**

No way to cook contents, unnecessary when there's access to a dining facility

• **Condiment Packs**

Ketchup, mustard, etc., typically gets thrown away

• **Toilet Paper**

Facilities are properly stocked

• **Personal Care Items in Excess**

Soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. are available at base exchanges

• **Chocolate/Gummy Candy**

Arrives melted together in a glob

• **Liquids**

Could spill or get damaged

• **Items w/Strong Odors**

Perfumes, lotions, etc., are not well-received in shared living spaces

• **Phone Cards**

Not needed; most members just use video calling apps

• **Books**

Highly dependent on preferences



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