

OQC Online

Operation: Quiet Comfort • 307 Palmer Lane • McCormick, SC 29835 • Honor and Comfort for our Wounded Troops



U.S. Department of Defense

Casualty Statistics (as of Feb. 5, 2013)

Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan

Total Deaths 2,165
Wounded 18,230

Operation New Dawn Kuwait and other Locations

Total Deaths 66
Wounded 295



Operation Quiet Comfort®

Freedom of Speech

Freedom from Fear



Freedom from Want

Freedom of Worship

OQC Online is a quarterly publication of Operation: Quiet Comfort designed for our online community. Publication dates are June, Sept., Dec. and March. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding publication. To submit articles for consideration, please contact Janis Schafnitz-Hogg, Board President, jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

www.operationquietcomfort.com

WILL YOU BE THERE FOR OUR HEROES?

By Jan Hogg, McCormick, SC

Things are changing for our military. It looks like future deployments will be twelve months long with little chance for R & R. This means more special milestones missed, and more longing to be with their loved ones. Of course there is the obvious, longer to be in harm's way.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, stop to assess the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) officers, during combat patrols at Torba Kash in Kunduz province, Afghanistan, Feb. 28, 2013. U.S. Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment established security as they prepared to enter an AUP outpost. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. John Bonds/Released)

Our deployed military will need the love, comfort and appreciation provided with the thousands of cards and letters sent with every shipment, the food, clothing, hygiene items, bedding and quilts. Let's not forget the lapghans, black knit hats, helmet liners and cool ties.

The letters and emails we receive from our deployed only reinforce the fact that our shipments mean a lot. They benefit physically and emotionally from what a grateful nation makes possible.

All that we send takes monetary donations for the items we ship and the postage to get it there.

We ship over two tons of love and comfort every year. We will continue to do so until we have all of America's sons and daughters home.

Please consider being part of this important mission. This does not mean you have to do it alone. Consider forming a group to make a difference.

It doesn't just take a village, it takes a grateful nation.

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Collecting and Stretching Donation Dollars By Jan Howin, Plymouth, IN



Stretching Donation Dollars

Thanks to everyone who has sent coupons to help keep costs as low as possible so we can stretch your donation dollars. Some of you have asked which coupons we use, but it is very difficult to compile a list. We do send coffee and tea, so those coupons are always appreciated. (We do not send K-cups.) When I see coupons in national magazines or weekend newspapers, I try to send a notice to our Yahoo group to let you know what we can use. If you're unsure, you can always email me to ask before you send: janh@operationquietcomfort.com

All coupons should be sent to:

Operation Quiet Comfort
17671 13 RD
Plymouth, IN 46563



Collecting Donation Dollars

We are well into plans for our second annual "Celebrate & Support Our Troops" dinner and auction fundraiser to benefit Operation Quiet Comfort. We will be holding the event on April 11, 2013 here in Plymouth, IN. The evening will include a program with information and education on what Operation Quiet Comfort is all about. We will be showcasing what and how we pack. The more people understand what OQC is doing, the more they are willing to become involved.

Of course, there is no budget for this so we are once again counting on having everything donated including the reception hall, the food, the labor, auction items, etc. So far the community has been extremely supportive. Our goal is to sell 250 tickets! If you are within driving distance, PLEASE consider attending. If not, please wish us the best. You might even consider sending auction items (please contact me first) or purchasing tickets that we can give to veterans and active duty military families.

Consider what your community might do to benefit Operation Quiet Comfort. Everyone doing a little makes a BIG difference!



Teamwork For Our Heroes By Susan Data-Samtak, NJ



Four friends living within 10 miles of each other have formed an OQC sewing group in NJ. We met through our common interest: horses.

Sisters, Barbara and Tricia, along with Shelly and Susan make up this team. We have known each other and worked on horse projects for 10+ years. Each of us is a professional woman, used to getting the job done and not afraid to ask for help to accomplish our goals.

Susan started this group by sewing Four Freedom Gratitude Quilts when they needed to have all edges “fringed.” Sewing was okay, but all that cutting was my downfall. Shelly offered to “cut.” Shelly’s son is a Navy Pilot, so she has a personal interest in helping our military. Shelly’s husband, John, pays to ship the finished quilts, signed blocks and cards from his business.

Later, Barbara joined our team making mini quilts for OQC. Tricia likes sewing the hearts and stars, so she joined in the fun. As time went on, Shelly, Susan and Barbara each expanded sewing to both types of quilts.

Tricia got more involved and asked if we could have a “Community Day” project at her workplace. We collected jeans, cut them into squares and brought signing templates to the signing day. Barbara and Tricia monitored the block signers. Susan brought her machine with a prepackaged Quilt Kit from OQC and actually sewed a Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt top right in front of the eyes of the block signers. They were impressed as the kit became a quilt top!

Along the way, another horse-owning friend got into the group. Janice lives about 40 miles from us, so she organized a Jeans Drive with Brodecker’s Farm Market. They put out barrels for jeans collection with a finished FFGQ. Mr. Brodecker told his clients to “Just sign one of these.” He also set up a newspaper photo shoot with his male farm employees. They posed

in red long underwear “Dropping their Jeans” for OQC. This generated many jeans for the project!

Janice’s efforts expanded to a local restaurant, The Chatterbox, where the owner set up a display of one of our quilts asking patrons to sign a square.

A local writer for the *New Jersey Herald* newspaper jumped on the bandwagon and started a collection at the newspaper office after she wrote an article about OQC. This generated 400 pounds of jeans! How did we know? One of the men in the shipping department boxed up the jeans and actually weighed them. Unfortunately, this yielded many unsuitable jeans but these were Freecycled to others to wear or cut into mini quilts and even made into pet beds for our local animal shelter. We used every jean we collected.

Monthly, Susan still receives a few jeans through the local 4-H leader.

Barbara collects jeans through her county’s Freecycle Group.

Our Team has spent days at three County Fairs in NJ, getting blocks and cards signed.

We also attended “Night Out” events where fire and emergency safety is emphasized along with food and fun for local residents. People are usually thrilled to sign a block or two, thanking us for remembering our troops so far away.

As you can see, friends, planning and enthusiasm go a long way toward achieving our goal of sewing as many FFGQs as possible for our wounded.

We are not the only people in NJ who are working on OQC projects. There are others doing great work as well.

I hope our story will inspire other folks to join their friends in participating in OQC fundraisers or sewing projects. Our troops appreciate our efforts and we appreciate them being in harm’s way for us.



★ ★ FROM THE FRONT ★ ★

My name is Zachary _____, and I am deployed here in Afghanistan. I was put in charge of the Wounded Warrior Support groups, which I love being a part of. I just wanted to take the time and say thank you for your support! I know the men and women that come through our hospital really appreciate what you have done for them. It's comforting to them, knowing they are not forgotten about. When the patients open the bags, their faces light up. I see what a difference it makes. Most of the patients have nothing but a hospital gown on. The clothes are a big deal to them. So thank you for everything you do, God bless.

Proud to serve,
Zachary _____



Hello Operation Quiet Comfort

My name is Helen _____ and I am a DAC (Department of Army Civilian) deployed here at _____ Afghanistan for 13 months, I arrived Aug 11 of this year.

I was given goodies in a Christmas stocking form your organization and I want to thank you.

Your donation does not go unnoticed, everyone here in the war fight thank you for thinking of us here at _____, life is challenging but we feel very honored to represent the United States and are thankful for kind people as yourself who think of us that are deployed here.

Helen



Good Afternoon,

Today I received a care package from you here in Afghanistan, and I just wanted to take a minute and write and say thank you. Without people like you and your organization, it would be much more difficult to pass time and have the little things that remind you of home. In my stocking I received a card from Riley at Quitman Elementary, Arkansas, I believe a post card from Luanne Jackowski with John 3:16 in it, and from the Alagona Family in Lancaster, PA, I'm sure it would be difficult but if you have a chance please thank them for me as well. Again thank you for spending time to care, it is rare in this day and age. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Ryan _____



Dear Ms. Hogg, Ms. Houin, and OPERATION: QUITE COMFORT,

I am writing to thank you for your kindness and generosity. We have received the packages in Afghanistan that you sent from South Carolina and Indiana. You will be happy to know that all of the "goodies" are being put to good use. I have attached a picture of our platoon, so you can see all the people that your efforts have directly assisted.

We are a medical platoon that provides emergency and routine treatment to a Battalion of over 700 Soldiers. We are currently conducting operations with several different Special Forces units that require a lot of our Soldiers

to be living in austere environments with limited access to the pleasantries that you have graciously provided. We have made sure that your items are being pushed out to those Soldiers who need it most.

As for all of the stockings (over a 100 in total!) that you sent us, we have been distributing those to the lower-ranking Single Soldiers who may not necessarily have families to send them Christmas pleasantries. You will be very happy to know that your kindness is putting smiles on the faces of all those Soldiers.

In addition to the material items, we especially thank you for your kind words and committed support. Also, thank you for the continued support of all men and women in uniform. We can only imagine how much time and energy that you put into OPERATION: QUIET COMFORT! I can definitely assure you that your efforts are making a huge difference in the our lives. So thank you!

From all of us here in Afghanistan, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed holiday season! Take care.

Very Respectfully,
Jack _____
1LT, MS Task Force _____ Medical Operations Director.



Hi There,

We wanted to say Thank you for the Holiday Stockings and goodies. We handed them out to our patients here at the Combat Stress Clinic. Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,
Combat Stress Clinic Staff
_____, Afghanistan
USAF



Happy Holidays,

I just wanted to send a note and say thank you for my Christmas stocking. Each and every item felt like warm hugs from home.

Merry Christmas,
Brandy



Operation Quiet Comfort,

On behalf of the _____ Army Field Support Brigade, we express our sincere, heartfelt appreciation for your time preparing the many care packages. The smiles on Soldiers' faces says it all.

Trust and Loyalty,
With Great Respect,
Colonel Mark A. _____



★★ FROM THE FRONT ★★

To Staff of Operation Quiet Comfort,

Thank you for your actions to support soldiers deployed. It is an honor to serve the people of the USA and it is very gratifying to know that it is appreciated.

CW3 Robert _____

★★★★★★★★★★

5 Dec. 12

We received your boxes today! Thank you so much for the Christmas stockings. I sent them forward to the guys in the COP's in the area. I also took note of the Christmas cards w/addresses so I could send thank you cards—many cards were from Scout troops—if you happen to have the addresses we'd like to thank them.

Thank you for thinking of us!

Major Brigitte _____

★★★★★★★★★★

I just wanted to take a quick minute to tell you thank you for what your organization does. My unit received several Christmas Stockings from you guys and I appreciate it. It is great to know that there are still some people back home that do realize that we are still at war. I hope that you and yours had a great Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Thank you,

Burton K. _____

CW2, OD

Maint. Control Tech

★★★★★★★★★★

This message came in a beautiful Christmas card.

"Dear Volunteers of Operation Quiet Comfort!

Thank you very much for the coffee, tea, cocoa, the condiments and microwave meals you sent to our servicemen and women here at _____. We cannot tell you how many cheers and smiles we are seeing as a result of your generosity. Thank you for your continuous generosity and support for the troops.

Respectfully,

Jean _____"

As we begin a new year we must remember that our troops need to know that they are not forgotten!

Thank you to each of you that contribute in any way to the mission of Operation Quiet Comfort. We will continue to pack and ship much needed and appreciated boxes of love and comfort in the coming year. As long as they are there for us, we will continue to "be there" for them!

May each of you have a Happy and Blessed New Year and may it be filled with peace!

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Jan & Jan,

We received the boxes sent from your organization. On behalf of our Team Leader, Colonel _____ and rest of the ____st Forward Surgical Team, I would like to thank you and the rest of the people involved with Operation Quiet Comfort for all you do. You've been sending GREAT STUFF!

I recognize the time and expense that it takes to put all the boxes together. It must be a logistical challenge to procure all the goods, and then to store them until it is time to ship, and then all the packaging material, and of course the postal costs. We appreciate all your efforts, and never take them for granted. Anything that doesn't get used by our patients is shared with our interpreters, who are local nationals, and are valuable members of our team. Thank You again for your valuable service!

Warm Regards,

James L. _____ LTC, Chief Nurse ____st FST

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Jan,

"Wanted to say thank you and your organization for your support of American Soldiers."

Ssg Carlos _____

FOB _____, AFGHANISTAN

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Mrs. Hogg & Mrs. Houin,

Sgt. Caitlin _____ forwarded the care packages to my team. We are in a remote location in Afghanistan. My team and I would like to thank you for the thoughtfulness and the support. I know our morale was raised due to your kindness. We don't get a lot of care packages at our location and we are grateful for your contribution. We are Texas National Guardsmen on an advisory combat deployment. Our team call sign is "Buccee's." A famous truck station corporation in Texas. Again, thank you for your generosity and support to soldiers deployed away from home.

Sincerely,

SPC Brian M. _____

(It was also signed by eight other soldiers.)

Good call by Caitlin!

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Operation Quiet Comfort,

I came upon your name at the hospital and I just wanted to thank you for your time, help and support of us troops. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Always,

SPC Donna _____

★★★★★★★★★★

☆☆ FROM THE FRONT ☆☆

5 JAN 2013

Operation Quiet Comfort,

Thanks for sending all those stockings. It means a lot to open at least something for Christmas. To have so much support from everyone is amazing. It melts my heart to see writing from young kids and your kindness doesn't go unnoticed one bit. I hope you guys are holding down the fort @ the homefront!!!

From all off the soldiers here at FOB _____ (_____), we all wanted to say thank you. In the end you supporters are the real heroes and that's the truth.

Keep up the good work and we all will come home safely!!

SPC Christopher _____

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

4 JAN 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Afghanistan. My name is SSG Luis _____ and my unit is stationed in a remote base in the southern part of this country.

Because of our location, we do not have the comforts that larger bases provide, mainly a PX where soldiers can purchase everyday products. We are blessed with an abundance of hot water, thank God. When your packages arrived, it was like Christmas all over again! Thank you very much for all that you do for our troops. Rest assured that your kindness was deeply appreciated by many service members.

Thank you very much once again. May God bless you and protect you always.

Sincerely,
SSG Luis _____

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Thank you so much!

I received the boxes sent today! You are very thoughtful and generous.

I will endeavor to spread this out to all the different units and Soldiers on _____.

The _____ folks are leaving this week. We are now under the ___st FST, so our address has changed.

Once again thank you for your support of our Soldiers.

Brigitte

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

"Dear Jan,

Thank you for all of your gifts. They have helped some of us here. Our days have been brightened by you. Thank you!

Love,
Specialist _____"

It is addressed to "Jan" but it is all of us working together to make these gifts possible! I want to thank each of you and encourage you to Keep Talking and sharing the mission of Operation Quiet Comfort with everyone you know!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

"Dear Mr. or Mrs. Houin," *(I guess I need to let them know a little more about me :)*

"The troops stationed here at _____ and the surrounding FOBs really loved the care packages you sent for them, especially the black bags stuffed with goodies. The staff and volunteers of Operation Quiet Comfort and yourself have provided us again and again with such tremendous support that the impact of your actions is being felt even in the outlying FOBs.

You are our heroes.

Respectfully,
Jean _____ "



Fun filling stockings!

Celebrate & Support Our Troops

Thursday April 11, 2013

Doors Open 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program begins 6:30 p.m.



Memories Reception Hall

401 E. Jefferson St.

Plymouth, IN 46563

PARKING AND ENTRY IN REAR
LOOK FOR SIGNS

Individual Tickets \$15

Reserved seating table for 8 - \$125.00 (April 5th Table reservations deadline)

Dinner - delicious pork dinner and dessert

Program - entertainment and education on the work of
Operation Quiet Comfort

Auction - an opportunity to bid on awesome items

For Tickets contact:

Jan Houin

574-936-1424

janh@operationquietcomfort.com



Tickets also available at: Ameriprise Financial

Ancilla Athletic Dept. - Coldwell Banker Hometown Realty

Young's TV and Appliances, WTCA Radio Station, A.S.K. for Flowers

The proceeds of this event and auction will go to Operation Quiet Comfort, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of volunteers across America who honor and comfort our U.S. Armed Forces men and women who are injured while serving in harm's way and the medical staff who care for them.

www.operationquietcomfort.com



Calling ALL States!

As we assemble the Four Freedom Gratitude Quilt kits, it is important to have different states represented on each quilt. That can only happen if we are receiving signed squares from around the country. PLEASE review the directions for signing and encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to write a message to our troops and add their city and state to show them that a grateful nation truly cares! If you need denim squares you can request them from Sandy at oqcmembertomember@gmail.com. She will connect you with someone who has blank squares.

—Submitted by: Jan Houin



Notice:

In compliance with IRS regulations, receipts are sent for all donations of \$250.00 or more, or for any lesser amount upon request.

REMINDER...

OQC is accepting financial donations as we “friend-raise” and “fund-raise” to get existing supplies to the troops.

Send donations to:
Operation: Quiet Comfort
 C/O Jan Hogg
 307 Palmer Lane
 McCormick, SC 29835

Download this newsletter from our website. Go to

www.operationquietcomfort.com

<<http://www.operationquietcomfort.com/>>

and click on the “Newsletters” button!

Shipped with Love

Dec. 2012 - Feb. 2013

By Jan Houin



Category: CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

- 38 Female Pajamas
- 62 Female Underclothing
- 27 Sports Bras
- 16 pair Female Crew Socks
- 185 Men's Underclothing Sets + PJ Pants
- 7 Helmet Liners
- 7 Knit Caps
- 8 pair Gloves (Special Request)
- 9 Scarves (Special Request)
- 9 Hand Warmers

Category: BEDDING & LINENS

- 14 Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts
- 49 Small Quilts 3x5
- 9 Lapghans
- 75 Travel Pillows
- 100 Pillow Cases

Category: FOOD & EQUIPMENT

- 1566 oz. *Good* Coffee
- 26 tubs Sugar & Creamer
- 1860 individual servings Tea
- 314 individual servings Hot Cocoa

- 10 individual servings Hot Cider
- 36 Grab-n-Go Cups
- 2282 individual Snacks
- 3250 individual servings Jerky
- 522 Microwave meals
- 1 Bread Machine
- 152 Bread Mixes
- 42 Spreads (PB & J)
- 144 individual servings Honey & Jam
- 88 individual servings Drink Mix

Category: GROOMING & HYGIENE

- 320 Go Bags
- 16 Feminine Hygiene
- 4 We Wipes
- 20 We Care Kits

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 200 Cool Ties
- 25 Empty Backpacks (special request)

CARDS

- 1600 in Go Bags
- There were many more to top off each box, but sadly some boxes had none so PLEASE keep those cards going to Diane!

Barb Declement, New OQC Board Member

by Barb Declement

I live in Hammonton, NJ with my husband of 22 years. After receiving my accounting degree, I worked in corporate tax for over 25 years, including Manhattan, Philadelphia and West Palm Beach. While working for a defense contractor, I became interested in helping our military. I also took a quilting class and fell in love with it. Operation Quiet Comfort helps me with two things I am passionate about, quilting and helping our injured soldiers. I look forward to helping your wonderful organization in anyway I can.



Board of Directors

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jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

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janh@operationquietcomfort.com

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Plymouth, IN

peggyr@operationquietcomfort.com

Dawn Sleeman

Taylor, MI

dawns@operationquietcomfort.com



Established in July 2004 for the purpose of honoring and comforting members of the U.S. Armed Forces injured while in harm's way, and providing support to those who care for them.

About Our Work

We're creating care packages for U.S. Military men and women receiving care at medical facilities abroad. Often our injured men and women arrive for medical care without their belongings and it can take weeks before those belongings catch up with them—and sometimes they don't arrive at all. Even when injured our troops need items like hygiene and grooming products, clothing, entertainment and support from the home front.

It is the mission of this effort to help assure those individuals are honored for their sacrifice and comforted by creating "GO BAGS," or transition kits, that include comfort items like our "Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt," personal care items and products that entertain and provide "down time" for their spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

We rely on the expertise of Pastoral Care Services and others knowledgeable about what items are most appropriate for their particular unit or facility. As a result, the program focus will change to meet the needs of those we sponsor. The Go Bags and Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts are just part of our work ... there are opportunities for everyone to show their thanks and appreciation.

Everyone brings different gifts to the table ... we invite you to share yours!

In-Kind Donations
(including quilts, knit items and cool ties)

Operation: Quiet Comfort

c/o The Houins

17671 13th Rd.

Plymouth, IN 46563

www.operationquietcomfort.com

Founder Lori Pate, La Salle, MI

lpate@operationquietcomfort.com

Volunteer Project Coordinators

PROJECT: OQC Online Newsletter

Coordinator: Janis Schafnitz-Hogg

jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt Kits

quilts@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Quilt Assembly Questions

Carol Anderson

chateau@cablespeed.com

PROJECT: Small Quilts - 3' x 5' Cot/ Gurney/Litter Quilts

Coordinator: Cristina Conciatori

CristinaC@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Member-to-Member Program- Quilt Supplies & Blank Denim Blocks, matching Angels with members needing supplies

Coordinator: Sandy Scharf

ocqmembertomember@gmail.com

PROJECT: Cool Comfort Neck Ties

Coordinator: Heidi Bristol

heidibristol@att.net

PROJECT: Crochet & Knitted Items

Coordinators: Joanne Diehl

joanned08@netzero.com

Julie B. Barrett

jbarrett5@cox.net

PROJECT: Travel-size Pillowcases

Coordinator: Connie B.

mbfans@aol.com

PROJECT: Sea to Shining Sea - Recycling Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones

Chair Cristina Conciatori

cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Fundraising, eBay & Amazon Sales

Contact: Cristina Conciatori for

information, to register for selling on eBay or Amazon for OQC

cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Cards of Thanks and Well Wishes and Volunteers to Sign Them

Contact: Diane Schneider

diane8587@gmail.com for guidelines

119 Brentfield Loop

Morrisville, NC 27560

PROJECT: Membership

Questions/Comments/Posting Guidelines

Joyce Cantrell

jcantrell@operationquietcomfort.com

Signed Blocks:

Operation Quiet Comfort

17671 13th Road

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OQC is proud to be working in partnership with AnySoldier.com.