

*Retyped from the original and converted to PDF  
<http://www.ThankYouSoldier.com>*



Dear Jonathan,

It was so wonderful to receive your care package. Thank you so much!!! Shared it with the guys again, who are so grateful for your generosity. May you be blessed for all you do for us! We are all doing pretty well. I am getting ready to set off for our 1 mile swim and 5 ½ mile run. Just did the triathlon last week (mini tri actually) – was fun. Thanks again for all you do for us!

Warmly,

Christina

Hello to all of my sweet friends and family!!!

I pray this note finds you all are well and blessed. We have been doing well here. Only about seven weeks to go. By the time you receive this, our mail may be coming to a close quickly, so you should probably not send any more packages. You have been such a blessing to the Marines and sailors, not only of my unit, but also at the hospital (we shared with the patients there). We are so grateful for all you have done! May you be blessed for your kindness.

It has been HOT here lately, reached 120 degrees on one occasion; and it is 116 on a regular basis. Makes me believe in spontaneous human combustion! Some days I feel like I am truly going to burst into flames! Yesterday there was a small dust storm, so it cooled off a bit. I never would have thought I would be thanking God for the dust. The powdered sugar donut effect was on (that's what I call it when you are melting with sweat and then the dust kicks up, leaving you coated in fine dust). Makes your skin feel gritty, kind of like getting your very own dermabrasion treatment!!! For free!!!

So far, so good as far as casualties for my unit (no deaths ... but a few injuries and illnesses). Medevacs have slowed down considerably. Spirits are higher since we reached "double digits" (I think we are down to fifty days left). Everyone can see the light at the end of the tunnel now. So things are going pretty well. I also got re-instated at the hospital, but have to

request a visitor's pass when I go in. This situation has profoundly affected me. But, God causes all things to work together for the good of those that love him. I know things will work out in the end. Besides, when you put everything in perspective, this is "small potatoes". I could be out living in a tent, showering with baby wipes, washing my clothes in a puddle, struggling to get by, with little supplies, having to medevac even the simplest cases. So, thank God for whatever you have ... it could be better, but it could always be worse. This is a cake walk compared to what others are facing. That being said, you have made this a sweeter place to be. Thank you so much for your support! I have enjoyed being here with the Marines. I would have gone to a more austere location if called to, but I am in Al Asad, which is do-able. And we have had your kind support, which made it even better!!!

We had a barbecue and softball game the other day. The O's (officers) creamed the SNCO's (Staff Noncommissioned officers). They talked a lot of trash during the game. One of the guys even shouted, "Hey, WHO's calling that" (when he didn't agree with the call made on a play). We said, "Chaps" (which is the chaplain, or preacher), and he said, "Oh..." and shut right up. It was very funny. Who can argue with a man of God? Maybe they should get chaplains for major league ball games as well. I also talked a bit of trash too, "Hey, batter, batter ... swing@". It was funny. One player even kicked dirt toward the ump when he didn't agree with a call. They only get two strikes and three balls. I never heard of that rule. But, I have learned a lot of things I never knew since working and playing with the Marines. You should always keep your eyes, our ears, and your heart open to new ideas, new opportunities for growth. You never know WHAT you will find. That's it for now. May you all be blessed. Thank you again for all you have done for all of us!!! We love you!!!

Affectionately,

Christina "Doc" Williams

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