

12 Feb 2009

Dear Jonathan and all from "Thank you Soldier",

Thank you so much for the wonderful letters and the great care package! Of course, I have shared the goods with many of the Marines and Sailors over here.

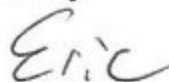
I am part of Surgical Unit, a medical and surgical unit of about 120 people, including doctors, nurses, medics, and Marines. The unit is based out of Camp Pendleton, CA, about 1 1/2 hours north of San Diego. However, many the individuals in the unit are stationed from all over, including Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Guam, and Japan.

We are in Iraq, with wild climate shifts. In the summer, it was hot, with temperatures reaching 150 degrees one day!!! This winter, the temperature was as low as 30 degrees, but right now it is nice! Every few weeks the wind kicks up and we have really bad sandstorms that you can barely see 10 feet in front of yourself.

Our job here is to take care of anyone injured, including Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Iraqis, serving as their hospital. Luckily, things continue to get safer throughout the country and we are not too busy!

Thank you again for all the support! I'll try to get some pictures to your website, which is easier said than done as the Internet service here is intermittent and extremely slow!

Sincerely-



CDR Eric Hofmeister