

From: Carlson, Dwight C HS
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 11:37 AM
To: Burns, Becky Lynn HS
Subject: FW: Your Care Package,

Classic Green Light and People of PB,

I was surprised this morning to receive an enormous box from your company filled with an almost unbelievable bounty of creature comforts and shelf-stable, American junk food. Thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts! You have put a smile on every face in the shop, and some much missed comfort foods in our bellies. We have already begun dividing up the contents of your care package for distribution to the rest of the company, albeit with more than a bit of reluctance. You managed to achieve a nearly perfect mix of items for us, and everything, from the Goldfish, to the baby wipes, to the assorted magazines, is highly sought after by the Marines and Sailors out here. Whoever among us gets them, your gifts will be appreciated tremendously, and consumed quickly. You have clearly been doing this a long time. You guys are good at this!

In case you wondered where you were sending all that goodness, I work in the S-2, (intelligence,) shop of Headquarters and Service Company, First Battalion, Fifth Marines. We are based on the north side of Camp Pendleton, just across the highway from Trestles, north of the San Onofre nuclear power station. We are currently three months into a planned seven month deployment in the Nawa District of Helmand Province in South Central Afghanistan. We are part of the Ground Combat Element, (GCE,) for Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Afghanistan, (MEB-A). We are assisting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, (GIROA,) in restoring security and stability to this formerly Taliban-held part of the country.

Thank you all, again, for your concern and generosity. For the moment, we have only our gratitude to offer you in return, but I'll try to keep you posted on our progress out here, and on when we're coming home. I hope that this letter finds you all well, and that you can all feel at least a little bit of the happiness you have brought to a bunch of grimy, smelly Marines today.

Semper Fi, and God Bless,

Benjamin Closs
Captain, USMC
1/5 S-2