

Marines Care Package Project™ List of Items Needed by Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan

Support our Marines! We need items to send in the care packages. If you, your company or organization would like to donate items to support the Marines, please use this list as a reference for the types of items to collect for the Care Package Project. All items must be new and in the original sealed packaging (except recreation items as noted below). Homemade food items cannot be accepted.

NOTE: Food items shipped with toiletry items will taste like deodorant, foot powder and toothpaste. To avoid this, please deliver all food items packaged separately from all toiletry items.



MOST REQUESTED ITEMS

UPDATED October 5, 2008:

Please consider donating from the "most requested" items list here. Travel-size and single-serving size work best. *(See below for specifics on these most requested items.)*

- Single-serving size snacks and non-perishable food items, particularly tuna kits, beef jerky, canned fruit (small containers; pop-top lid), dried fruit, nuts and other healthy snacks
- Pre-sweetened flavored beverage mixes (smaller sizes please)
- Toothbrushes
- Body wash liquid (no pump dispensers please)
- Undershirts (olive green, short sleeve)
- Socks (bootcut, black)
- AA Batteries
- Letters of support
- AT&T Global Pre-Paid Military Calling Cards

Food and Snack Items

- Gum, Lifesavers, Mints (blister pack gum is best because of the intense heat)
- Fruit: single serving size cans of fruit, dried fruit (Note: Plastic fruit cups with the plastic seal are not recommended as they can open in transit; individual-size cans are preferred.)
- Nuts, sunflower seeds, peanuts, trail mix
- Power bars, protein bars, nutritional bars
- Beef jerky, beef summer sausage (non-perishable; labeled USDA Beef)
- Single-serving bags of snacks, crackers, snack mixes
- Pop Tarts, cereal bars, "milk & cereal" bars, granola bars
- Ramen Noodles, Cup-O-Noodles serving cups
- Ravioli and other canned ready-to-eat meals (canned or styrofoam single serving are best)
- Tuna lunch kits (includes foil pouch of tuna, crackers, and condiments in each single-serving kit)
- Canned sardines, smoked oysters
- Jalapeno Velveeta® and crackers
- Taco Bell® Sauce Packets, Seasoning salts, flavoring salts
- Cheese dips in plastic or canned (NO glass please)



Do not send glass containers. Pork and pork by-products are not allowed to be shipped to most Middle East combat locations. Please send non-perishable foods only. Single-serving package sizes are preferred; large packages won't stay fresh and are harder to ship. If you can stuff it in your pocket and it's not going to spoil or melt during the summer season, it's a good thing to send!

Beverage Items

- Ground coffee, coffee drink powder
- Hot cocoa mix
- Lemonade mix, Koolade mix, Tang, Iced Tea mix
- Gatorade mix (powdered only)
- Crystal Light (or other brand) "On The Go" flavor packets (these come in a box of several sleeves of flavoring that can be added to a 16-20 oz. water bottle; see photo to the right)
- Sugar and creamer packets for coffee



Send small containers please. We cannot ship liquids. However, the Marines do need flavors to add to the drinking water provided to them. Please send pre-sweetened or sugar-free flavoring mixes in small or single-serving packages. During the colder months, hot beverages are in great demand. Please do not send glass jars.

Recreational Items

- Hacky Sacks, Tennis Balls
- Deck of cards
- Hand-held games
- Movie DVDs (new or used; original only)
- Music CDs (new or used; original only)
- Portable DVD Players
- Portable CD Players



Clothing Items

- Long underwear during winter months
- Fingerless gloves
- Stocking caps (plain, gray, black or dark green)
- Cotton socks
- T-shirts (olive green or white)
- Cotton boot socks, green or black (try military surplus stores)

Color of underclothing and socks is not as important as 100% cotton. Send fingerless gloves and stocking caps during winter months only.

Communication Items

- Disposable cameras
- Envelopes, paper, pens
- Small pads of paper
- Notebooks (a size they can keep in a pocket and keep dry)
- Drawing pads (small)
- Small, blank journals



Personal Supply Items

- Batteries (AA are most requested, then AAA)
- Cigarettes, chew, cigars
- Tactical Duct tape: military green, tan or black
- Electrical tape
- Super glue
- 72" Bootlaces (brown or tan preferred)
- Leatherman All-in-One Tool (see photo)
- Quart-size and 1-gallon ziploc plastic bags
- Disposable, instant hand warmers (during the winter months only)



If you are a school or other organization collecting items where children under the age of 18 are involved, please do not encourage donations of tobacco items.



Foot Care Items

- Cotton socks, black, green, or white
- Boot liners/insoles
- Odor eaters for boots
- Lotrimin AF or Tinactin for athletes foot (tubes of ointment or cream, or the bottle of drops; please do not send the aerosol spray type)
- Medicated Foot Powder, Medicated Foot Swabs
- Moleskin (for pads on sore feet, you'll find it with Dr. Scholls type things at WalMart or drug stores)



Footcare is critical and the demand for quality products is very high. Be sure that all items are in the original, sealed packages.

Personal Care Items

- Sunblock
- Throat Lozenges
- Gum, Lifesavers, Mints
- Eye Drops (to relieve dry eye, not redness)
- Blistex, Chapstick, Carmex (in stick-tubes rather than tubs)
- Aspirin, Motrin, Tylenol, Pain Relievers (small containers)
- Saline spray/drops for sensitive nasal passages
- Q-tips
- Eyeglass wipes



Lip balm is in high demand in desert areas. The lipstick-style tubes that you apply directly to your lips are preferred over the "tub" style. Eyedrops are to relieve dry eyes; please avoid sending eyedrops designed to remove redness as those will increase dryness and irritation caused by sand and storms in a desert climate.

Body Wipes & Hand Sanitizers

- Baby wipes for personal hygiene (alcohol-free)
- Liquid body wash (no pump-style dispensers)
- Liquid hand sanitizers (no pump-style dispensers)
- Disposable hand sanitizing wipes



Please do not send pump dispenser style bottles. When the Marines are out in the field, facilities for showering and taking care of personal hygiene are infrequent and in many locations non-existent. Portable-sized packages of non-alcohol based baby wipes are in high demand for these Marines.

Toiletry Items

Toiletries are not in as high a demand as they once were; however, we do have units at forward operating bases that still need the toiletries listed below:

- Toothpaste (in hard-side tubes rather than traditional tubes)
- Toothbrushes
- Nail clippers
- Shampoo
- Deoderant
- Liquid bodywash soap, liquid anti-bacterial soap (liquid is easier to use than bar soap) (no pump-style dispensers)
- Lotion (no pump-style dispensers)
- Disposable multi-blade razors (no single blade razors please)
- ShaveMan™ Battery Powered Shaver (About \$5 at WalMart and other discount stores; see photo below and to the right) Razors and replacement blades
- Kleenex (travel-size packets)



Please purchase small or travel-size items for personal care. We try to send a new toothbrush in every package, so the demand is very high for toothbrushes. Toothpaste tubes get messy; the plastic "bottles" of toothpaste stand up better to the conditions of combat zones. The new "Brush Ups" are very popular and useful for the Marines. (see toothpaste photos to the left)



ShaveMan™ Battery Powered Shaver