

Packaging Ideas for our Troops



It is best to mail in these Bulk rate postal packages.

Make sure to include the customs form

Available in two sizes:

Box One: 11-7/8 x 3-3/8 x 13-5/8 inches (ideal for garments, board games, books and other relatively thin items).

Box Two: 11 x 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches (perfect for shoes, model cars and taller items).

Rate is \$8.10, regardless of weight or destination for items mailed in the Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes provided by the Postal Service **TAPE WELL: TAPE CORNERS and EDGES.**

FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT: Letters of encouragement along with pictures

Pack everything in Baggies, the in case something breaks it will not hurt other items, they will reuse the Baggies – the sand is very fine there and it gets into everything!

If you are shopping and don't know what to get: just think about being on a trip far away from the little comfort items that make life easier.

Food - but be careful of the weather **- no chocolate that will melt in the summer**

Chewing gum

Hard candy

Tic tacs – breath mints in tins

Chips

Crackers (that won't crush)

EZ-cheese

Pumpkin/Sunflower seeds

Girl Scout Cookies

Beef Jerkey – Slim Jims, pre-cooked - vacuumed meats (NO PORK)

Powered drinks like coco, tea, hot cider even coffee, cup of soup – no liquids

Powdered drink mixes to flavor water, the single servings are LOVED

Coffee creamer, Tea bags

Non-microwaveable “just add water foods”

Snack foods that are not “too melty or easily crushed”– nuts, hard candy, twizzlers etc.

High protein bar

Fruit cups in cans

Misc

Batteries (mostly AA or AAA)

Magazines (no pornographic, even mild) comics

Heating squares for sore muscles or cold desert nights

P38 opener- (great all-purpose small can opener)

Plastic utensils

Books and Journal Books

Writing material (perhaps self-addressed postcards)

Stamps

Games-word puzzles

Playing cards

DVDs (again: no pornographic, even mild)

Mugs – unbreakable – like the camping ones

Towels – wash clothes

air fresheners –nothing that melts

AT&T phone cards or ones that are for *International calls*

Packing Tape

carpenter's pencil –grease pens

Sharpies (permanent marker pens)

550 cord

clothes pins

Softball or baseball gloves, with *several* softballs or baseballs, Frisbees or other small outdoor activity items (does not have to be new)

Boot scrubbers to get the mud off before entering tents

House slippers so they don't have to wear boots inside.

Shoes insole cushions

Sunglaqsses

Small hand held electronic games

Disposable cameras

Toiletries

Travel toothpaste
toothbrush
Dental floss –
Toothpicks
razors (they love the triple blade ones)
shaving cream/ after shave cream
Kleenex (the small travel ones)
Liquid soap
Wet wipes – towelettes or baby wipes
(Unscented is best). Disinfectant wipes
Hand sanitizer/ hand lotion
Hand moisturizer
Foot cream
Feminine products
Chap stick
Nail clippers
Foot powder
Bobby pins
Travel shampoo (dandruff shampoo)
Q-tips/ Cotton Balls
cough drops
Tylenol – I would think EXTRA strength
Antacids
Vitamins
Travel toilet paper
Neosporin
Sunblock/ Sunscreen
Eye moisturizers- eye drops
Saline Nasal Spray
Clear nail polish
Lens cleaner
Travel size shampoo & conditioner
Band-Aids

More expensive harder to find “Christmas present ideas”

Maglights – include extra batteries and carrier
(MPs LOVE THESE)

Gerber Multitools or **Benchmade Knives**
Knife sharpeners

Camelbak Hydration Systems – MULE or
HAWG etc.

Camelbak cleaning kits and drying racks

Handheld sewing machines or even sewing
kits

Grunt wonder tape

Limb saving watchband -- it isn't really a
watch band - but some sort of very thick
material that appears to be a couple of inches
wide

You can get other unique gift ideas from: [Kit
Up!](http://kitup.military.com/) Military.com's new gadget blog, devoted to "the
stuff you weren't issued but that you couldn't have
done without during your military life."

<http://kitup.military.com/>

Camelbak - website

<http://www.camelbak.com/index.cfm>

**There is often no running water when he
is on a mission and the water at the base
is considered undrinkable.**

WHAT NOT TO PACK:

**This is very serious: they may face a court marshal if they receive these products ~
even unknowingly.**

- **NO: Obscene articles** (prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc). **Any matter depicting nude or seminude persons**, pornographic or sexual items, or non-authorized political materials.
- **NO: Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith.** Items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible.
- **NO: Pork or pork by-products**
- **NOthing containing alcohol.** (even mouthwash)
- **No Aerosol containers**
- **Nothing that has a white powder (cookies, etc)**
- **Chocolate tends to melt**