Support our Troops

LCMS World Mission Ministry to the Armed Forces helps connect members of the LCMS to the ministry of LCMS Chaplains around the world.

Men and women serving in the United States military face times of separation from their families, homes, communities, and churches. A simple care package can go a long way in helping our chaplains reach out to our men and women in uniform. With simple daily items, chaplains can build relationships to spiritually support our service men and women. Your support of our U.S. troops will make a difference!

To send a care package to our chaplains please call:

The Ministry to the Armed Forces office at 1.800.433.3954, ext. 1337
or e-mail *lcmschaps@lcms.org* for name, address, and mailing instructions.

Do Not Send the packages to our office please.

*** You do not need to collect all the items on the list ***
*** Select a few items from the list and collect those items ***

Example - A third grade class may choose to collect toothpaste and pop-tarts. Each student can bring in as many tubes of toothpaste and boxes of pop tarts during an assigned period of time. Once the time limit is complete you mail them to the assigned chaplain (chaplains move around frequently so please contact LCMS World Mission before sending a package). Students can also involve the congregation or other classes. This can even be done as a community event.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Toiletries must be UNSCENTED

* Chap-stick, blistex
* Non-medicated eye drops
* Lens cleaners
* Hand & foot cream & body lotion
* Shampoo and conditioner *(small sizes)*
* Hand sanitizer, such as PURELL
* Emery boards, nail clippers
* Facial cleansing pads
* Large Baby wipes *(soft packs are best)*
* Kleenex packets
* Q-tips
* Hand and feet warmers *(as used by skiers, hunters, etc.)*
* Athlete's foot medicine, such as Lotrimin
* Deodorants
* After shave gel or lotion
* BLACK or WHITE tube socks
* Boxer shorts *(small, medium, large and x-large)*
* Mole skin & blister packs
* Gel Insoles for their boots
* SOFT Toilet Paper
* Dental Floss
* Vitamin C drops
* Bath gel
* Toothpaste
* tooth brushes
* Disposable razors
* Shaving cream
* Foot and body powder *(Gold Bond Powder is a particular favorite)*
* Brown army T-shirts *(med, lg and x-lg, must be bought at PX or army surplus store)*
* Zinc tablets *(Cold-eezz cough drops & throat lozenges)*

FOOD/SNACKS

Send items that are packaged in cans or plastic containers so they will not be crushed.
CANDIES/EVERYTHING needs to be individually wrapped

* DORITOS
* Pringles *(all flavors)*, Tostitos, Chex mix & cheese nips
* SPICY snack foods
* Potato sticks
* Pretzels
* Flavored popped corn, fiddle faddle, cracker jacks
* Salsa & canned dips *(not refrigerated)*
* Crackers & cheese spread in bottles
* Trail mix
* Granola cereal and bars
* Pop-Tarts *(all flavors)*
* Power bars *(all types that won't melt)*
* Beef & Turkey Jerky
* Cold drink mixes - powdered pre-sweetened drink mixes, Crystal lite, Wylers Lemonade, Tang
* Hot beverages in individual packets, in both regular & diet:
  – FLAVORED instant coffee & teas *(herbal)*
  – Gourmet coffee, ground, ALWAYS requested
  – Powdered coffee creamer, plain and flavored
  – Instant hot cocoa mix
  – Spiced apple cider mix
* Individual serving sized fruits - no refrigeration needed
* CEREALS, including instant oatmeal in "fun flavors", sweetened dried cereal - individual or big boxes - for snacks
* foil packs or easy open, pop top cans of tuna or chicken
* Individual servings of chili, Mac & cheese, stews, etc. They are microwaveable but they also heat in the sun
* Beef Slim Jim's *(NO Pork allowed)* or beef sticks, beef salami or pepperoni
* Cup of soup, cup of noodles, top ramen, any type that is instant
* Individually wrapped cookies, snack cakes, *(i.e. Twinkies, Rice Krispy treats, oatmeal cookies, nutter butter cookies, graham cracker sticks)*
*Cheese & crackers and peanut butter & crackers in individual plastic cups
* Gum - lots of it, regular & sugar free
* Nuts - all kinds
* Hard candy, mints, jolly ranchers
* Red licorice
* Sweet-tarts, star-bursts, life savers
* Dried fruit & fruit roll-ups
* All types of chocolate. NOTE: DO NOT SEND until late October, early November.

OTHER NEAT THINGS TO INCLUDE

*They really appreciate AT&T phone cards so they can call home. It **must** be AT&T.*

* Disposable camera
* Batteries AA and AAA
* ONLY AT & T Phone cards
* Comic books
* Liquid laundry detergent
* Fly swatters
* travel size electronic games
* Hand pumps to inflate balls
* Mouse traps and fly paper
* Duct tape *(green, black, or gray)*
* Funnels to get drink mix into their canteens
* Cigars (keeps the insects away)
* Neck coolers *(still in the 100s in Baghdad)*
* Blank music CDs and jewel cases or paper sleeves
* Magnet backed photo holders and small personal albums
* Letters of support, cards from students, scouts or church groups
* Pens *(preferably black ink)*, stationary, postcards & greeting cards, to send to their families
* Nerf footballs, volley ball & net, soccer balls, basketballs, whiffle ball & bat
* Dominoes, cribbage boards, trivial pursuit & other board games
* Velcro dart game for their tents & other indoor type games
* Music & movie DVDs & CD's or CD-R computer games, electronic games, game boy, taped sporting events
* Use the Sunday comics and sports section as packing material
* ½ gallon size plastic containers to mix the drink mix in
* Freezer weight Ziploc bags, all sizes, but especially gallon size
* Fabreeze *(helps kill the odor of their stinky uniforms)*
* Self adhesive envelopes *(the others don't adhere well, especially if sand gets on them)*
* Decorations for any upcoming holiday from the dollar store

On behalf of LCMS chaplains and U.S. service men and women throughout the world, LCMS–World Mission thanks you for your gifts and prayers.

www.lcmsworldmission.org/armedforces