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- NEWS
- SPORTS
- FORUMS
- BLOGS
- CITIES
- ENTERTAINMENT
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- LIFE & HOME
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE
- CLASSIFIEDS

YELLOWHAMMERING AFGHANISTAN

By Mike Tomberlin

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- RSS

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- Mail shout
- Poverty and pity
- TGIJ
- Beneath the burqa
- Drawing a crowd

Categories

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Mail shout

Posted by

Michael Tomberlin August 12, 2007 10:11 AM

Today's mail call turned into a mail shout with all of the packages addressed to me.

I'm not trying to brag about my popularity, though members of The Birmingham News staff did step up big with gifts for me (thank you Tom Gordon and Robin DeMonia) and goodie bags for the children (thank you Scott Stantis and family). While I'm at it, let me give a shout out and thank you to Maj. Chris Chisum and his co-workers at GE Energy in Pensacola and retiree Ron Midlam for the impressive care package earlier this month. Also, a big "thank you" to Girl Scout Troop 345 in Highland Home with an assist from Scout Leader Teresa Evjen and Andalusia's John Givhan.

But the bulk of the mail today was my first shipments in response to anysoldier.com. For those not familiar with this program (and I wasn't until recently) it is a clearinghouse of sorts that puts together groups of soldiers in need of items with those bright souls out there wanting to give.

I created a profile for our soldiers on there, asking mainly for items to furnish our new recreation room as well as grilling items for a new grill we all pitched in to have built here at Camp Vulcan.

The initial response has been extraordinary.

There is Chris and Cindy St. John from Operation: Show Our Love in Brookville, Ohio, who sent a box of snacks for the troops as well as all of our dogs. They also sent a box of clothes, paper, pencils and coloring books and colors for the Afghan children. One of our district teams plans to get those out to a needy village this week. Thank you.

Thank you, also, to Michael Blaine Clayton of Comar, Illinois, who sent us magazines, toiletries, books, DVDs, baseballs and a glove along with other items that have already proven popular among the guys.

Jim and Betty Alexy of Rancho Santa Fe, California, gave us lots of grilling goodies along with T-shirts and dog food. We certainly appreciate it.

More grilling items came from Francie and Dick Bodkin of Nampa, Idaho, along with games, puzzles, candy and pasta. Thank you.

For anybody who things supports for the troops is waning, they need to take a look at my office right now. We soldiers have been aware of the whispers of support before, but on days like today it manifests into a shout.

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