

OQC Online

Operation: Quiet Comfort • 23309 Ford Road • PMB 168 • Dearborn, MI 48128 • Honor and Comfort for our Wounded Troops



U.S. Department of Defense Casualty Statistics

By Lori Pate
LaSalle, Michigan

As reported for August 24, 2010

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

Wounded and *RTD:	17,934
Wounded and not *RTD:	13,992
TOTAL WOUNDED:	31,926
Increase from 5/4/10:	<136>

As reported for August 24, 2010

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

Wounded and *RTD:	3,528
Wounded and not *RTD:	4116
TOTAL WOUNDED:	7,644
Increase from 5/4/10:	<1,967>

*Returned To Duty within 72 hours



Freedom of Speech

Freedom from Fear



Freedom from Want

Freedom of Worship

OQC Online is a bi-monthly publication of Operation: Quiet Comfort designed for our online community. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding publication. To submit articles for consideration, please contact Marian Watt, Volunteer Project Coordinator, marianw@operationquietcomfort.com

www.operationquietcomfort.com

SIX YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR WOUNDED

By Marian Watt, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

On July 21, 2010 Operation: Quiet Comfort marked its sixth anniversary of providing honor and comfort to our wounded military heroes and support to those who care for them. Since its inception, OQC has grown from an idea—to a plan—to a nationally recognized organization. Looking back at six years of service, it's amazing how OQC has grown to include the hearts of so many caring Americans—the hearts of a grateful nation.

Operation: Quiet Comfort officially became a 501(c)(3) non-profit on Dec. 5, 2005, and the following March saw the installation of our first Board of Directors.

In six years, our online volunteer group has grown to over 1,000 caring souls located across the United States and in countries around the world. We had started out with just a handful of Combat Support Hospitals and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to support. However, Medical Command was soon requesting our help for additional units—and OQC now supports over 48 units in the Middle East.

During these busy six years of service, we have not only shipped thousands of GOBags and Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts; we have also been able to provide supplies to fulfill many special requests—such as sweatpants and shirts, travel pillows and cases, small quilts, prayer shawls, lapghans, cotton thermal blankets, bread machines and mixers, coffeemakers, phone cards, “stress relief” games, police whistles and flashlights, and much more. Each year a special holiday shipment is sent to our units in November to help them prepare for and enjoy the holidays that they must spend away from their families.



American proud—born and raised.

Thousands of boxes of love and comfort have been shipped to the units we support. GOBags, to help our wounded troops; Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts and small quilts, to wrap them in love; supplies for the medics that care for them—all of this made possible because of your hard work, effort and support.

As the result of many of our Board Members and supporters nationwide making presentations, we have had various groups stepping forward and making donations to help Operation: Quiet Comfort's mission succeed. Some of these groups include the Foundation for American Veterans, Raymond James Financial Services - Veterans, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Prudential, Hewlett Packard, Wal-Mart and many others.

During these six years, we have been honored to receive messages from many of our units, along with pictures from several of them. The photo section on our Yahoo site will show you the gratitude and love on the faces of the men and women we are supporting. Please take a moment to check the photos out.

Your contributions of time, talent and resources help us continue to provide meaningful support to our wounded during their time of distress far from home. Let's continue to show them that a grateful nation has their backs.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Challenge to Honor and Comfort . . . 2 From the Front 3

A Challenge to Honor and Comfort by Jan Houin, Plymouth, IN

Here in our part of the Midwest, it has been an extremely hot and humid summer. As I go from my air conditioned house to my air conditioned car or office, I wonder how our troops are handling the weather in full gear. As we've enjoyed pool time, pontoon rides, fireworks and family gatherings, our troops continue to protect us around the globe.

The casualty numbers in Afghanistan continue to climb. Here in Indiana, we are blessed to have an air conditioned building to work in as our volunteers come together to pack the boxes of love and comfort to send our troops.

We gather once a month for a work meeting and 21 volunteers came on July 20th to pack 100 GOBags for our ready line. As I write this, 48 of those bags have shipped. A steady need continues, so please make copies of the flier in this newsletter that explains how anyone can sponsor one or more GOBags for our injured troops. Invite your family, friends and co-workers to share this opportunity to show them that a grateful nation truly cares. Not only do these GOBags provide needed supplies to our injured, but it gives the medical staff a good feeling knowing they can provide one more measure of comfort as they distribute the GOBags and quilts.

As I mentioned in the June newsletter, our son-in-law has moved from Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, to Ft. Benning, Georgia. We're excited to have him, our daughter and three grandchildren a "drive-able" distance from us. They used leave time and spent much of the summer in Indiana with us. It was fun to involve our grandchildren in events of OQC.

Kenny and I continue to speak and/or hold block signings whenever and wherever possible. We've been to a DAV Fish Fry, Rotary Club, Farmers' Market, Optimist Club, Bob Evans Community Fun Night, Peebles Dept. Store Friends and Family Event, a motorcycle Remembrance Ride for POW/MIA, a VFW Hometown Heroes Picnic, to name some. I've listed these NOT to say, "Look what we did!" because it's never about us, it's about "them," our U.S. Military Men and Women who serve us. My hope is this will spark ideas of where you might share the OQC mission in your local community.

Many people give me suggestions of what I might do. The "coulda, shoulda, woulda" syndrome. I was very excited when two ladies from the Bremen, IN, VFW Auxiliary told me they will be hosting a Pork Chop Dinner in September as a benefit for OQC! That's what OQC needs, people who are willing to step into leadership roles. By the way, one of those ladies said it was okay for me to tell people that she is 86 years old, and if she can do this, others can too!

Everyone doing a little will make a BIG difference. What are you planning? Whether you are in a position to plan a large fundraiser or to take a minute to write a note on a card, I challenge you to do something to honor and

Hi, Jan, I have a confession to make:

I really had mixed feelings about taking time out to be there last night (Referring to the July 20th GOBag packing event). However, I must say I felt truly blessed to be a part—even a very small part—of bringing hope and encouragement to our military overseas. I went last night to support you and your goal. By giving us insight to the bigger picture, I can understand the power behind your passion. I hope to be invited back.

Friends, MaLeta



Packing day in Plymouth, IN



Packed GOBags

comfort our U.S. Armed Forces who are injured while serving in harm's way and the amazing medical staff that care for them. By doing this for our military today we are also honoring our cherished veterans of the past.

★ ★ FROM THE FRONT ★ ★

Message received June 2, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

Thank you so much for the quiet comfort packages that you provide. Seeing the look of exhaustion on my face after medical evacuating troops, a medic provided me with your pack to rejuvenate my body and spirit. Thank You.
XX

★★★★★★★★★★

Message received June 12, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

We received a lot of boxes from you! It will be never enough for us to appreciate what you are doing for us! I am making a community center for XX staff and a lot of patients. We are over XX beds, a big hospital.
Thank you again for your support. We have a lot of patients every day. I want to do my best to serve them.

Many Blessings,
CH XX

★★★★★★★★★★

Message received June 16, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

Dear Operation: Quiet Comfort,
THANK YOU for the AMAZING care packages! I can't tell you how much your generosity & thoughtfulness mean to all of us.

We are proud to serve!
LTC XX
XX Combat Support Hospital
Chief Nurse

★★★★★★★★★★

Message received June 21, 2010
IRAQ

Dear Operation: Quiet Comfort,
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our deployed soldiers. From the soldiers of the TF XXst CSH and myself, we salute you for your time and effort. You are the reason that we gladly do what we do. We greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers, and your boxes are always a welcome sight.

Thank you,
XX

★★★★★★★★★★

Message received July 1, 2010
KENTUCKY

I am an Army Veteran and Army wife whose husband is currently stationed with 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division at Ft Campbell, KY.
As many of you know June 2010 has been the deadliest month in Afghanistan since the war started there nine years ago. There were 100

coalition deaths, half of those came from our division and half of those came from my husband's brigade with one battalion being the absolutely hardest hit by far.

These figures that the public hear does not even include our wounded; those whose lives are forever changed, who will be reminded daily for the rest of their lives of the love they have for our country and what they willingly endured to show it.

We have been hit hard and it is nowhere near ending, we need the American citizens in the fight with us. Yes you can be in the fight by caring for, reaching out to, and supporting our troops and their family and the organizations that provide for us.

I would like to speak to you from a different perspective than most have about the military life of soldiers and their families. First of all, as many Americans acknowledge we do make a lot of sacrifices to serve our country but how deep and life changing those sacrifices are cannot be conceived if you have not lived it and fade from memory when not shared with the general public in such a way they will never forget; so please allow me to share.

The sacrifices affect every single aspect of our lives whether they are at home or abroad. When home, we can't plan family events, vacations, parties, or any of the other joys people hold dear because they are what enrich your life. Those things are taken at whatever opportunity presents itself for us and we make the most of the moment because we are acutely aware ours moments together very well may be limited by the life choices we have made to protect our fellow citizens and answer our country's call to duty.

We realize there is a part of our loved ones' lives that we will never be a part of, never understand, never talk about or hear the details they want to protect us from but we would rather have the rest of their life than to not have them in our lives at all.

This is particularly profound when our loved ones leave American soil to serve the country we love so much and the sacrifices are amplified in ways most can't imagine. We wonder about what is happening with each other but can never talk about it over the phone.

We each continue grow and change apart from our loved one and have to get to know each other all over again each time we are reunited. We miss numerous once in a lifetime experiences with each other and our families that can never be recaptured but we love our country and believe the people in other countries deserve freedom so again we choose to sacrifice.

The hardest part of being apart due to duty is knowing our loved one may fall silent in battle or be wounded which also changes our lives forever. It is us that live the rest of our lives without the one we love most or deals with the physical, mental and emotional changes that our warrior endures but we stand by them because when our warrior chose to serve and sacrifice for his/her country no matter the cost, we chose to support, protect and stand by them no matter what.

We could NEVER accomplish this without American citizens who not only give lip service to how they appreciate the military but who actually move into action to show us that we do not live, fight, give or stand alone. Regardless of political views you can support our troops without supporting the war.



No American should say "I wish I could do something" and then do nothing. There are thousands of ways to reach out to our loved ones in uniform and the families that stand with them. When they are sick or injured while in a combat zone, it comforts and eases the fear and stress of us back home to know the needed items are there to take proper care of them.

If they are in a hospital recovering and there are items to make them rest better and feel loved by the citizens they serve, their families breathe a little easier. When they receive cards and letters, the joy we hear in their voices when they share it with us is priceless. Those often times touch them more deeply than the ones from the people they know because it is for it is those people they chose to dedicate their life to while knowing it would mean leaving the ones they love the most and possible paying the ultimate sacrifice.

If you don't have the time to collect, sort or ship items, those organizations who do always need donations. If you truly mean that you hold dear the freedoms you have because of our sacrifice then please show us.

There is NO WAY the families and fighting men and women of this country can do it without our fellow citizens. There are far too many needs for us or even the government to meet without help from you.

Any form of support from those we serve gives us the strength, drive, and determination to continue the mission and believe that what we do and are willing to sacrifice matters; that it is not in vain, that we are not disillusioned in believing that we serve "a grateful nation."

The lesson learned from Vietnam was to never allow those who serve us to be forgotten or to go through it alone. It is our hope that as these wars drag on, our nation does not become complacent in remembering, honoring and taking action to support us.

In the words of Rambo "all we want is to have our country love us half as much as we love them!" Please help us through organizations with established missions and means to get the right things to the right places and people!!!

We will continue to stand between you and all enemies foreign and domestic. Please stand behind us. Behind every great military force is a greater nation.



Message received July 12, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

From all of us here at XX Hospital, I just wanted to thank you for your gifts. They are greatly appreciated, especially the pillows which we use for our wounded soldiers when they are flown from here. It's the little things that have the biggest impact, and the caring and kindness shown by all the individuals that makes these gifts possible really warms our hearts. Thank you once again from all of us here, and may God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

XX, SrA, USAF



Message received July 25, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

My name is XX and I am in the USN serving with the marines in Afghanistan right now. I have received 6 boxes from your company and I must say that my sailors and marines are ever so grateful to you and your donations to help send a piece of home to all of us!!! They truly were such a blessing; thank you so much!!!

I sent some thank-you cards from all of us here; I hope that u receive them!! It is the least that we could do. I don't get on the computers as much as I would like to but I wanted to send this out in case u did not receive our letters. I will try to send u a picture of where we live and our crew the next time that I can get onto the computer.

P.S. By the way I thought that it was awesome to see that you and your company is from MI, I too am from there. I am from Grand Rapids.

Thank you again for all your support!!!

XX



Message received August 3, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

... I just came back from my R&R leave and found out that you sent a lot of boxes for us. Your bags are so valuable for the wounded warriors who came here without anything. I hope that you can support until XX of 2011 as we have a lot of patients here.

I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. The items you have sent have brought a great joy and a bit of home to us. Thank you for taking time from your day to think of us. It is an honor to serve our country as a Soldier, especially, to save our wounded warriors in the combat hospital. It does our hearts good to know that there are generous families and people that have not forgotten that we are here. May all your heart desires be met! Blessing and thank you again!

If you want to support us in a different way, please send snacks and food items for us.

CH XX



Message received August 5, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

Dear Operation Quiet Comfort,

Thank you so very much for your support of our troops. We received your generous gifts of quilts. These quilts will support our hospital staff as well as our troops who have been wounded in the current conflict and truly need the blessings of comfort and reassurance that they are cared for. We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness. Thanks so much!

Blessings!
Hospital Chapel Staff
XX





FROM THE FRONT CONT.



Message received August 6, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

Thank you for your email. Yes, I have received your boxes. Thank you again for your support and prayer. It means a lot to us.

Our hospital is a big CSH in the XX side of Afghanistan and has saved a lot of people's lives. As you guess, we have had a lot of amputation operation. It is so sad for me to watch over their surgeries, but thanks to God to save their lives because they were so close to death.

I may share one story with you how your prayers were powerful for my ministry here. 3 weeks ago, we had a patient with the serious heat stroke with 108.2 body temperature. It means that he was supposed to die or have brain damage. But he survived without anything wrong. The day of 4th of July celebration, the hospital command talk to all staff. "We had a patient with 108.2 degree and survived without anything wrong. It is a miracle medically. Do you know how it was happened? It is because Ch XX did pray a lot for him. We need to thank to CH XX and his God."

I was drilled about this incident. I know that many people have prayed for my ministry and I could do many things here. This community center we set up here is another miracle for my Soldiers. This is the only place for them to relax and watch movie, etc.....With your prayers and support; it became possible for people to believe that God works among us.

Thank you so much for your prayer and concern. God bless you all!

CH XX



Message received August 9, 2010
AFGHANISTAN

Operation: Quiet Comfort -

My name is Samuel XX. I am a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, 24-years old from Boston, MA. On 18 July 2010, I was leading a patrol of U.S. Marines and Afghan partner forces through XX, Afghanistan. Our patrol was ambushed by enemy forces and I was wounded when a Taliban sniper shot me in my right pectoral. Thankfully, no other Marines or Afghans were wounded in the attack.

I was transferred to a medical center at Camp XX, Afghanistan. Following surgery to clean and repair my wound, I was taken to the Intensive Care Ward. Upon arriving, I received a black backpack care package from Operation: Quiet Comfort. Words cannot express my sincere gratitude for your kindness, generosity, and patriotism. You went out of your way to give your time, energy, and money, and you don't even know me.

Serving our great nation as a U.S. Marine is an incredible honor, highlighted and justified by true Americans such as yourselves. Words on paper cannot do my feelings justice, but please accept them nonetheless as a humble token of my appreciation.

Knowing that there are Americans such as you supporting us in our efforts to defeat evil and terrorism makes every sacrifice justified, every hardship worthwhile. It is a true honor to serve, and fight, in your defense, and in the name of freedom.

Semper Fidelis, and God Bless America.

Sincerely,
Samuel XX
Corporal, USMC



GUNSTON st.

by ZAVISKI



The Pride of Our Country

By Marian Watt, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Just as before, our heroes do fight –
For the land they love, and a flag so right.
Just as our brave men and women from conflicts gone by
They march for us proudly, with the flag held high.

From every state they come to serve
They're taught by the best – as they deserve.

Our troops give their all, and the world does see
They serve on land, in the air and at sea.

They are the pride of our country, yes they are –
The strength of our nation, the best by far.

What these heroes must have is support from their own –
Love and thankfulness from a grateful nation must be shown.

Their greatest achievement is that we are still free –
Please be thankful for those who caused this to be.



Notice:

In compliance with IRS regulations, receipts are sent for all donations of \$250.00 or more, or for any lesser amount upon request.

Download this newsletter from our website. Go to

www.operationquietcomfort.com

<<http://www.operationquietcomfort.com/>>

and visit the NATIONAL NEWS page!

REMINDER...

OQC is ONLY accepting:
financial donations and signed blocks
until further notice as we “friend-raise” and “fund-raise” to get
existing supplies to the troops. Send donations to:

Operation: Quiet Comfort

23309 Ford Road

PMB 168

Dearborn, MI 48128

Shipped with Love August 2010



Total Weight: 1,525 lbs
Total Shipping Cost: \$1,328.75

Category: CLOTHING &
FOOTWEAR

43 Black Knit Hats

90 pair Men's Socks

72 sets of Men's Underclothing
sets

72 pair Men's Pajama Pants

20 pair Women's Underclothing

22 Sports Bras

62 pair Women's Crew Socks

16 pair Women's Ankle Socks

1 Women's Pajama set

44 pair Female Underwear

254 pair Flip Flops

Category: BEDDING &
LINENS

15 Four Freedoms Gratitude
Quilts (we're out)

160 Small Quilts

12 Lapghans

145 Travel Size Pillows

196 Travel Pillow Cases

250 Cool Comfort Neck Ties

8 Inflatable Travel Pillows

120 GOBags

Category: FOOD &
EQUIPMENT

650 Healthy Snacks

101 Microwave Meals

6 pkg. *GOOD* Coffee

4 Caribou Coffee

6 Creamer

4 Sugar (4lb.)

2 boxes Grab n Go Cups

4 Tableware

945 Drink Mix singles

48 Starbuck Via Single Serve

Category: GROOMING &
HYGIENE

43 pkg. Feminine Hygiene

Many CARDS of Thanks and
Encouragement



Block Signing event

RELIEF FOR WOUNDED TROOPS



Each GOBag contains the following items:

Black backpack with sturdy straps (no markings)

Grooming Kit including –

Shave Gel (travel size)

(2) Triple blade razors

2-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner (travel size)

Q-Tips (travel size pack)

Deodorant (travel size)

Mouthwash (travel size)

Toothbrush & Cover

Toothpaste (travel size)

Dental Floss

Tissue Pack (travel size pack)

Gold Bond Medicated Powder (travel size)

Body Lotion (travel size)

Toenail Clippers

Lip Balm

Black Comb

Hand Sanitizer (travel size)

Deodorant Bath Washcloths

Stationery Kit including –

Junior note pad

Envelopes

Pen

Mechanical Pencil

Puzzle Book

Personal CD Player

With (4) AA Batteries

(3) CDs (new or used – not burned)

Collection of cards signed by grateful Americans

Our Mission Statement:

Established in July 2004 for the purpose of honoring and comforting members of the U.S. Armed Forces injured while in harm's way, and providing support to those who care for them.

A Quick Overview:

We're shipping supplies for U.S. Military men and women receiving care at medical facilities abroad. Often our injured men and women arrive for medical care without their belongings and it can take weeks before those belongings catch up with them - and sometimes they don't arrive at all. Even when injured our troops need items like hygiene and grooming products, clothing, entertainment and support from the homefront.

How You Can Help:

Your company, family, friends, group, or organization can make a tax-deductible donation to sponsor a GOBag that will be shipped to one of the medical units we work with overseas. The cost to assemble and ship each GOBag is approximately \$50.

Simply send your check to:

Operation Quiet Comfort
23309 Ford Road
PMB 168
Dearborn, MI 48128

For more information, visit our website at:

www.operationquietcomfort.com



Board of Directors

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Established in July 2004 for the purpose of honoring and comforting members of the U.S. Armed Forces injured while in harm's way, and providing support to those who care for them.

About Our Work

We're creating care packages for U.S. Military men and women receiving care at medical facilities abroad. Often our injured men and women arrive for medical care without their belongings and it can take weeks before those belongings catch up with them—and sometimes they don't arrive at all. Even when injured our troops need items like hygiene and grooming products, clothing, entertainment and support from the home front.

It is the mission of this effort to help assure those individuals are honored for their sacrifice and comforted by creating "GO BAGS," or transition kits, that include comfort items like our "Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt," personal care items and products that entertain and provide "down time" for their spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

We rely on the expertise of Pastoral Care Services and others knowledgeable about what items are most appropriate for their particular unit or facility. As a result, the program focus will change to meet the needs of those we sponsor. The Go Bags and Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts are just part of our work ... there are opportunities for everyone to show their thanks and appreciation.

Everyone brings different gifts to the table ... we invite you to share yours!

Operation: Quiet Comfort
23309 Ford Road
PMB 168
Dearborn, MI 48128
www.operationquietcomfort.com

August 2010

Founder Lori Pate, La Salle, MI
lpate@operationquietcomfort.com

Volunteer Project Coordinators

PROJECT: OQC Online Newsletter
Coordinator: Marian Watt
marianw@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts
(must become an approved quilter)
Coordinator: Dawn Sleeman
quilts@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Small Quilts - 3' x 5' Cot/ Gurney/Litter Quilts
Coordinator: Cristina Conciatori
CristinaC@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Member-to-Member Program- Quilt Supplies & Blank Denim Blocks, matching Angels with members needing supplies
Coordinators: Sandy Scharf
oqcmembertomember@gmail.com

PROJECT: Cool Comfort Neck Ties
Coordinator: Leslie Pangilinan
funtobewithlp@yahoo.com

PROJECT: Crochet & Knitted Items
Coordinator: Laura Hemly - Maryland
lahemly@gmail.com
(Also matches Yarn Angels with needlework members)

PROJECT: Travel-size Pillowcases
Coordinator: Connie B.
mbfans@aol.com

PROJECT: Cards of Thanks and Well Wishes and Volunteers to Sign Them
Contact: Diane Schneider
Diane52381@nc.rr.com for guidelines

PROJECT: Coke Points for CDs/Players, DVDS/Players
Coordinator: Tracy Branigan for information
tabranigan@comcast.net

PROJECT: Sea to Shining Sea - Recycling Printer Cartridges
Contact: Maggie Alverado
maesafron@yahoo.com
Chair Cristina Conciatori
cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Fundraising, eBay & Amazon Sales
Contact: Cristina Conciatori for information, to register for selling on eBay or Amazon for OQC
cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

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