



## U.S. Department of Defense Casualty Statistics

### Operation Enduring Freedom

(as of 11/15/11)

Deaths	1,720
Wounded in Action	14,837



Freedom of Speech

Freedom from Fear



Freedom from Want

Freedom of Worship

OQC Online is a quarterly publication of Operation: Quiet Comfort designed for our online community. Publication dates are June, Sept., Dec. and March. The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. To submit articles for consideration, please contact Janis Schafnitz-Hogg, Board President, jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

[www.operationquietcomfort.com](http://www.operationquietcomfort.com)

## THE DOMINO EFFECT

By Jan Hogg, Board President, McCormick, SC

It is hard to believe our nation just observed the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. Operation: Quiet Comfort has been providing honor and comfort to our wounded and medical staff for seven years. We are sending supplies to eleven combat hospitals in Afghanistan and their needs never let up.

Getting hand-written thank you cards thanking us for the simplest of comfort items, there is no doubt that we must continue touching hearts and making sure they know we care.

Personally, I have always found great pleasure in giving rather than receiving. I would never ask anyone for anything for myself, but when it comes to our heroes, I would never hesitate to ask anyone at any time for donations.



Diane pleads for cards, Dawn pleads for quilts, Jan H. and I plead for monetary donations. This is where the domino theory comes in. If we have lots of cards but no funds to purchase the shipping boxes, fill them with comfort items and pay for them to be shipped, they will never be read and our heroes will not know we care. We can collect all the jeans in the world, get the blocks signed, but if we do not have the quilters to make the quilts, the funds to purchase the shipping boxes and ship them—I think you can get the idea. It takes everyone's talent and monetary donations to accomplish our mission.

The dollar-a-week postage may seem trivial. There are 1,199 members on record. If you multiply that number by 52, we would never have to struggle for shipping expenses. The fact of the matter is we are not getting a tenth of that. Next time you read a mail call, note the number of donations designated for postage.

I have just provided everyone with a lot of numbers and I am hoping and praying that each of you will make it possible to continue touching the hearts of our wounded military and the amazing men and women that take care of them.

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## What We Send and Why *by Jan Houin, Plymouth, IN*

I have purchased more underwear in the past two years than anyone I know. Not because my washer eats socks (although that has happened), but because I do much of the purchasing for OQC. Most of you know about the Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts and the Go Bags we ship to our wounded troops, but I'd like to share some of the other items we send. You may have noticed "underclothing kits" listed in our shipments.

When our troops are injured and are brought into a medical facility for treatment, many times their uniforms are destroyed. They may be miles from their home base. When you have family or friends in the hospital and they need something, you get it for them, but the families of our troops aren't close by, and their friends are busy fighting a war.

Here at the OQC packaging center we put together "underclothing kits" which include one T-shirt, one pair of boxers and one pair of crew socks. Depending on the season we may add a pair of jersey shorts or a pair of pajama pants.

These are all new but they are pre-washed so they are softer and the "new package" smell is removed. There is a laundromat that donates all of this washing. The clothing is then sorted by size, folded and placed in a Ziploc bag and labeled by size. This allows the medical staff to grab what's needed and give it to our wounded heroes, whether they are recuperating for a few days or being medevac'd to a larger facility.

Although the majority of what we send is for men, we also send female packages. Each package is sent to give our troops comfort, honor and

dignity at a very stressful time. The medical staff have also shared that it gives them a good feeling when they can share this extra measure of comfort beyond the medical treatment they give. Here is what one staff person shared with us, "I can't thank you enough for your recent packages ... it really means a lot to the injured men and women who receive these gifts. And also to us, the staff, that can give them comfort in their not-so-good times ... much appreciated. Thank you again!"

Besides the underclothing kits, we send hundreds of pairs of crew socks. Besides putting a pair in each underclothing kit, we also include a pair in each Go Bag and we included a pair in each Holiday Stocking we sent. The following letter "From the Front" is a good explanation of why we do it.

"I received your backpack and items two days ago when my vehicle was struck by an IED. It was so generous and thoughtful. Thank you. And please pass the thanks along to the others who do this with you.

The six Soldiers in my vehicle all appreciated it greatly. For me, putting on clean, dry socks changed my whole demeanor ..."

These gifts are only possible because you, the volunteers of Operation: Quiet Comfort, know the value of showing our troops that a grateful nation truly cares. This is very humbling to me and shows me that the little things we do can make a **BIG** difference. One more benefit is that when I have a cart overflowing with underwear it always gives me an opportunity to **KEEP TALKING** about OQC to the people around me who tend to be staring a lot!



# ★ ★ FROM THE FRONT ★ ★

Hello,  
We received the DVDs, snacks, and games. Thank you very much. We greatly appreciate it and will enjoy playing the games. Thank you for your support.

★★★★★★★★★★

"Hello,  
Thank you very much for the care package of coffee/tea, snacks and drink mixes. We really appreciate it and greatly enjoyed it. Thank you."

★★★★★★★★★★

"Hello,  
We received the Saline Wipes. Thank you very much for your generous donation. We will definately use them. Thanks again for your support."

★★★★★★★★★★

Hello Ma'am,  
On behalf of the \_\_\_\_ CASF I wanted to thank you for your donations and support. It's those things that helps the days seem not so long. Thank you for thinking of us and we appreciate all that you do! Lt. \_\_\_\_ loves to make bread in the bread maker ... we work out of a tent and it makes it smell amazing. I hope that you have a happy and blessed day!

v/r,  
//SIGNED//  
Christina, \_\_\_\_, TSgt.

★★★★★★★★★★

I am an Army Nurse, deployed with the \_\_\_\_th Combat Support Hospital to Camp \_\_\_\_, Afghanistan. I wanted to thank you for the card and package you sent as part of Operation Quiet Comfort. It put a smile on my face and I really appreciate the support. It can be challenging, and at times lonely here in Afghanistan, but receiving packages like the one you sent, really mean a lot and helps me through the day.

Thanks Again,  
1LT Anna \_\_\_\_

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Operation Quiet Comfort,  
Thank you for your support and generosity. The backpacks filled with personal care items were a great hit with our Forward Surgical Team. We were able to distribute them to patients who were hurt so they would have supplies for their trip to Germany. The pillows you sent are also a big hit. They are cute and soft. I know I use mine everyday—it's the best gift I received on this deployment.

Thank you again for your concern, support and generosity.  
\_\_\_\_th FST

★★★★★★★★★★

Hello,  
My name is TSgt. Christina \_\_\_\_\_. I am a proud member of the \_\_\_\_th CASF. Your packages arrived and we opened them up ASAP. Thank you for thinking of us. We really appreciate all of your support as we would not be able to do what we do without your support. Thank you again and have a great day!  
Christina

★★★★★★★★★★

9-28-11  
Thanks for the book, pens, etc. I will use these during my recuperation.  
Sincerely,  
Capt. Emily \_\_\_\_

★★★★★★★★★★



## We Can All Make a Difference *by Marie McWhirter*

No matter what time of year it is, it seems we are all so busy. But, there are families who are apart from their loved ones all over the country. There are adults who have joined the armed forces after spending their childhood in foster care families. They are lonely and busy!

My son is serving in Afghanistan while his wife and two toddlers (who will be two and three in December) are stationed in El Paso, TX. They have been married for five years. In those five years, they have lived in four cities in and outside of the U.S. Is it any wonder why it is so difficult for our brave men and women? His unit has a facebook page in which a volunteer placed literally thousands of departure photos. Those photos tell lots of stories—single mom's leaving their children in the hands of grandparents, families and soldiers on the phone making that last call before leaving.

The number of injured soldiers who will be mentally scarred from this experience is staggering. We've all seen the news that suicide is at an all-time high among those in service and after returning home. My hope is that knowing that we care; that the messages on the quilt they receive will make a difference in their lives. That is why I take time out of my busy life.

I do my best, but I assure you the quilts I put together will never win any contest—they are FAR from perfect. But, they are going to guys who probably wouldn't notice anyway! The point is not that they are a work of art. The point is that we care, that the soldier is not alone and making the sacrifices in vain.

I had the same problem a lot of other folks do—the sewing machine I had just wouldn't sew through all the layers of the denim. I bought a used machine just for that purpose. They are not that expensive and are easy to find.

If that doesn't work for you, there are so many other ways to help—cut denim squares, get signatures, cards, hold a fundraiser at one of the many restaurants listed in the files (involve the whole family). Read the files and check out the many opportunities to make a difference. The most important thing is to just do it! Get motivated to make a difference.

Making the small sacrifices I do for OQC truly pales in comparison to the sacrifices those soldiers have made for **OUR FREEDOM**.





## Shipped with Love Aug. - Oct., 2011



### Category: CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

69 Underclothing sets +  
Pajama Pants  
20 Female Underclothing sets  
10 Female Crew Socks  
122 Flip Flops

### Category: BEDDING & LINENS

25 Travel Pillows  
50 Pillow Cases  
6 Four Freedoms Gratitude  
Quilts  
21 Small Quilts

### Category: FOOD & EQUIPMENT

1160 oz. \*Good\* Coffee  
15 tubs Sugar & Creamer  
140 Individual servings Hot  
Chocolate  
556 Individual servings Tea  
1,840 Individual servings Drink  
Mix  
949 Individual servings Healthy  
Snacks  
61 Microwave Meals  
71 pkg. Tuna, Jerky, etc.

Special Request: 1 Crock Pot

### Category: GROOMING & HYGIENE

174 Go Bags  
21 large Hygiene products  
18 pkg. Feminine Hygiene  
products  
10 Female We Care Kits  
800 pkg. Saline Wipes

### Category: SPECIAL PROJECTS:

50 Cool Ties

### Category: MORALE, WELFARE, RECREATION

5 Games  
2 large Puzzle Books

We add 5 CARDS to every Go Bag and 25-30 CARDS top off every box we ship, so we have sent over 3,000 CARDS this quarter.

Bless all of you who have stepped up to be counted and who are working so hard ... sacrificing so much ... to ensure our wounded warriors know we were there for them "just in case."



## 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)**

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

and click on the "Newsletters" button!

## REMINDER...

OQC is accepting financial donations as we "friend-raise" and "fund-raise" to get existing supplies to the troops.

Send donations to:

**Operation: Quiet Comfort**

C/O Jan Hogg

307 Palmer Lane

McCormick, SC 29835



## Holiday Packing



*Volunteers hard at work.*



*They even put President Jan Hogg to work!*



*We also packed 100 Go Bags.*



*This is what 30 boxes of 750 holiday stockings look like when ready to ship!*

## Board of Directors

President: Janis Schafnitz-Hogg  
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dawns@operationquietcomfort.com



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!

**In-Kind Donations (including quilts, knit items and cool ties)**  
**Operation: Quiet Comfort**  
**c/o The Houins**  
**17671 13th Rd.**  
**Plymouth, IN 46563**  
[www.operationquietcomfort.com](http://www.operationquietcomfort.com)

December 2011

**Founder** Lori Pate, **La Salle, MI**  
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## Volunteer Project Coordinators

**PROJECT: OQC Online Newsletter**  
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**PROJECT: Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt Kits**  
quilts@operationquietcomfort.com

**PROJECT: Quilt Assembly Questions**  
Carol Anderson  
chateau@cable-speed.com

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

**PROJECT: Member-to-Member Program- Quilt Supplies & Blank Denim Blocks, matching Angels with members needing supplies**  
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**PROJECT: Cool Comfort Neck Ties**  
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**PROJECT: Crochet & Knitted Items**  
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**PROJECT: Travel-size Pillowcases**  
Coordinator: Connie B.  
mbfans@aol.com

**PROJECT: Sea to Shining Sea - Recycling Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones**  
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

**PROJECT: Booth in A Box**  
Sandy Scharf (east of the Mississippi)  
oqcmembertomember@gmail.com  
Amber Sherman (west of the Mississippi)  
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**PROJECT: Cards of Thanks and Well Wishes and Volunteers to Sign Them**  
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**PROJECT: Membership Questions/Comments/Posting Guidelines**  
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