

04 Nov 06

Dear Kristin,

I just received your note and packages in the mail, again. Let me say thank you to you and your family for their support of the troops while we are deployed. I think it is a very noble and sincere effort to help those that are far from home. No words can express our gratitude for your efforts to bring a piece of America to this little slice of the desert. I am glad that the bars made it you in one piece and place accept it as a slice of our gratitude until we can get in contact with something more fitting your gifts.

Be assured that the Marines are more than happy to see the packages arrive and even more importantly their smiles are big and bright when I drop off the packages into their hands. Surprisingly, some of our Marine's have not gotten many packages from home or loved ones and these are the Marine's that I target with your packages. As, I have told you before the simple act of a box from America helps brighten their moods 100%.

Thank you for the picture's of your family. It helps put a face to the letter's and the originator of the package. It looks like you have a great family, one that resembles my wife's with the exception you do not have any brothers. Sara has 2 other sisters and 1 brother to make 4, while you have 3 other sisters. I imagine that had to be hard growing up with that many sisters. Sara say's it is always frustrating sometimes with so many siblings but she would change it for the world. I only have 1 sister to put up with and that was frustrating enough. But then again, a bigger family always means you get more people to have fun with and experience different things with. Sara and I have been married for almost 6 fantastic years now. She has been a rock throughout the various deployments I have been on. We recently had our first son who is now a rambunctious 11 month old running the house. He is definitely a blessing to us and cannot imagine our life without him, plus he is cute as a button. I will try and send a picture of him when the internet is working again. I will also try and post a shot of some of the Marine's that your family and you are supporting.

We are in fact based in the great state of Hawai'i. I say great because who can really complain about living in paradise!!! The weather is always perfect 80% of the time, 10% it rains for a few minutes and then it is sunny and the last 10% of the time it is the rainy season when it gets rainy for 3 or 4 days on end with tons of rain. But given the other 90% of perfect weather I am more than happy. Plus the house we have on base is 4 houses from the beach, so what is there to complain about. My family is originally from the Lone Star state (aka Texas). I started college at the University of Texas in Austin and am originally from the Austin area. We spent a majority of our younger years in Houston area and that is where I meet Sara. Her family still resides in the Houston area and my family has spread out with my dad (divorced) in Weirs Beach, NH (up the street from you) and my mom is in the hill country of Texas. I will admit that I love the Texas area and we are trying to get back to that area. However, the north east is also a beautiful spot to live. The fall and spring times are great, especially with all the foliage changes.