



## **AdoptaPlatoon Full Battle Rattle Newsletter JUNE 2012**

*Please do not forward this newsletter. Ask people to fill out an application to participate in AdoptaPlatoon's program.*

### **We Americans Will Never Forget our U.S. Forces Fighting in "Operation Enduring Freedom" Afghanistan**

**Grateful words of "thanks" is sent to all AAP donors and volunteer supporters who without their help, AAP could not send the level of Troop Support that is shipped out to all deployed Troops and especially to those Troops positioned in remote areas and are most need of America's support.**

**Thank you America for standing behind our Nation's Heroes**

### **82nd Airborne Division battalion to deploy to Afghanistan in summer**



*Photo by Army Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod*

*A paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team provides security to fellow paratroopers and Afghan National Security Forces after a May 17 firefight in Ghazni province, Afghanistan.*

About 800 82nd Airborne Soldiers are preparing to deploy this summer to Afghanistan where they will combat insurgents as the country prepares for the departure of the international forces stationed there. The battalion will join about 10,000 other 82nd Airborne Soldiers stationed there.

According to a news release, the 2-505th will "continue the momentum of disrupting, dismantling and defeating the insurgency while the Regional Commands re-posture and reposition their forces across Afghanistan." Military analyst John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org said the Bragg soldiers will face Taliban fighters, who had become active in recent years.

They aren't the only Troops there.....there are still tens of thousands of Troops in Afghanistan, and we need to continue to show our support for them.

**"Our gallant Heroes serving far from home are facing another summer of relentless heat and withering sand storms along with a dangerous enemy. It is our hope that as long as we have Troops in that part of the world, Americans will make sure they are never forgotten!"**

Please continue to stand with us as we serve those who sacrifice on our behalf and let them know they are not forgotten.



**Individual Service Member Support**  
**ADOPTERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!!**

We have numerous individual Service Members waiting to be ADOPTED (weekly letters AND a minimum monthly care package). *Remember, a care package doesn't have to be huge – just a few items like a bag of candy, beef jerky, gum, and a pair of socks truly lifts their morale.*

If you are currently supporting less than the limit of 4 individuals, please consider **ADOPTING** one more individual.

If you are an **approved supporter** with AAP and wish to adopt an individual, it is NOT necessary to submit a new application.

Please e-mail AAP at [info@adoptaplatoon.org](mailto:info@adoptaplatoon.org) with the following information and we will link you ASAP. Be sure to include all info so your request is not delayed:

- **Subject line: APPROVED SUPPORTER, and include;**
- **Your Name**
- **Your State**
- **Your Marital Status**
- **Your Age**
- **Your E-mail address**
- **type of support:**
  - adoption (weekly letters and monthly care packages)
  - OR**
  - pen pal (weekly letters)

Also, if any of your information has changed please be sure to let us know by providing the old and new info.

**Remember, we take great care never to link a single lady to a married deployed Service Member!**

## PLATOON SUPPORTERS NEEDED!!

Before our need for Platoon Supporters becomes more critical, we are asking our generous AAP supporters to please consider sending a small package(s) of goodies to a Platoon to help ensure that our deployed Heroes are not forgotten.

### YOU MAY SUPPORT A PLATOON IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:

\*Sending support for an entire deployment: This means that you will send 1 care package per month plus cards and letters for an entire length of a platoon's deployment period which is usually 6 to 12 months.

\*Send Occasional support (send letters/packages every 2-3 months);

\*Send a One-Time support

All Approved AAP Supporters who wish to participate by adopting a small platoon do not have to submit an additional application. Just email us at our AAP Information Acct: [info@adoptaplatoon.org](mailto:info@adoptaplatoon.org) and put **APPROVED SUPPORTER** in the subject line. We take great care making sure we appropriately link support to our Troops, so sending us your marital status is very important to us. **We do not assign single ladies to married Troops.** We use your information for appropriate assigning of Soldiers.

### Be sure to include all of your information below so your request is not delayed:

- Name
- State
- Marital Status
- Age
- Email Address
- **Platoon Size:** Small 25-35, Lrg 40-50. If these are too large for you, you can request to support a smaller Platoon. Just tell us how many Soldiers you can comfortably provide for and we will give you a portion of a larger Platoon or a Squad to support.
- **Support for how long:** One-Time, Occasional or thru their deployment
- If applicable, please list the Company, School or Group you are with.

**If you have any changes in your information, please be sure to include the old and new so we can correct our records.**

### \*The following approved AAP Supporters can participate in adopting a Platoon:

- families
- individuals
- groups
- companies
- schools
- American Legions / Veterans of Foreign Wars

- Clubs and Civic groups; ETC.

**Whether you embrace a deployed platoon for an entire deployment or a one-time support measure, know that you will be putting smiles on the faces of true American Heroes that are very grateful to know that YOU STAND BEHIND THEM!**

---

**Keep in mind that you as volunteer supporters linked directly to U.S. deployed Troops do not need to send all the support requested by the unit assigned to you. AdoptaPlatoon ships support daily from the AAP Troop Support Warehouse. We are a united effort and know that what means the most to our Troops is for you to let them know that they are not forgotten.**

**THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN ADOPTING A PLATOON**

\*As an adopted Platoon supporter, you are requested to send all letters and care packages to your Platoon Point of Contact (POC). **You do not have to send individual packages for each person in the platoon as they all share whatever is sent.** Your Soldiers may also move locations often and it's difficult for them to move extra supplies.

\*If you have Minors who will be participating, please pay special attention to the Guidelines for Schools/Teachers and Youth Groups found in ["Ways to Support Our Troops"](#).

\*Basically when supporting a Platoon, you're just supporting more Soldiers but still sending to one person, which would be the (POC) Point of Contact.

\*You may send what you wish or what you have already collected; however, you are always given a list of suggested items to send as well.

**Most important: Please do not share your assigned military units with anyone or other groups or publish the names and addresses of your assigned Troops or use any deployed military contact information with organized groups.**  
**Keeping our Troop's mail safety has to be all our concern.**



AdoptaPlatoon does not assign single ladies to married male Troops. AdoptaPlatoon screens all potential supporters prior to approval and Troop assignments are assigned appropriately. AdoptaPlatoon cannot guarantee that all volunteers who sign up with AdoptaPlatoon will be approved or that the approved status of a volunteer will remain approved. **Mail safety for our Troops is our paramount concern.**





**AdoptaPlatoon is proud to present Seaman Correy David Rendon ... Graduation Day Friday April 20, 2012, USN, and then on May 28, honoring our country and our Veterans.**



**CURRENT CAMPAIGNS**

**JULY 4, 2012** - It's easy to participate: For **APPROVED supporters** (approved AAP supporters already supporting a Soldier or who have done so in the past through AAP.) E-mail Arline Grant at aapcampaign@adoptaplatoon.org. Put **JULY 4 – Current Supporter** in subject line. Include the name of your most current Soldier **AND** all your info (name, address, phone and marital status).



**OPERATION FOOT PATROL 2012** - Our deployed Service Members know that taking care of their feet is just as important as taking care of their weapon!

Our Troops' summer mission in high desert temperatures is extremely tough, and in the winter they face cold and wet environments. Our Troops must constantly take care of their feet guarding against sores, blisters, fungus, bacteria and keeping their feet dry. To a U.S. deployed Soldier or Marine, a new pair of crew, boot or thermal socks is a blessing that goes beyond words! Sending a **clean pair of new socks, foot powder, anti-fungal cream, cooling cream, nail clippers, and/or athlete's foot lotion or cream** will go a long way to help our Troops serving our Nation know that YOU are helping in their mission as they serve far from home on our behalf. For **APPROVED supporters** (approved AAP supporters already supporting a Soldier or who have done so in the past through AAP) E-mail Arline Grant at aapcampaign@adoptaplatoon.org. Put **FOOT PATROL – Current Supporter** in subject line. Include the name of your most current Soldier **AND** all your info (name, address, phone and marital status).

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET OUR TROOPS AND THE BLESSING OF HAVING HEALTHY FEET!**



**HHT 1-14 CAV (Sapper) receiving packages!!!! We can't do it without all of your help!!!**



**HHT 1-14 CAV (Sapper) receiving ADOPTAPLATOON BLANKETS in January!!! THEY SEND THEIR THANKS for keeping them warm!**



### **WORDS OF THANKS FROM OUR TROOPS!**

Thank you so much for sending boxes of goodies to the Task Force Signal Soldiers here in Bagram, Afghanistan. Currently we have been here a little over a month, and we still have about less than 11 months to go. But who is counting.

Separation and deployment are hard for most of the Soldiers. However, they are doing great because of people like you who have been supporting and encouraging them. They enjoyed the goodies, personal hygiene, and other things that you have sent to them.

I have been in the Army for nearly 20 years, and I love what I am doing every day in the desert bringing Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers. I call Missouri my home, and I am a Southern Baptist. I am married now for over 30 years, and I have four grown children and a grandson. I am truly looking forward to keeping in regular contact with you to let you all know how we are doing.

Again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your service to God and Country also!!!



Chaplain (Maj) Jim Blount & Chaplain Assistant Ferdinand Ducusin



*Chaplain Provides Spiritual Aid on the Fly*  
 By Marine Corps Cpl. Isaac Lamberth  
 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

COMBAT OUTPOST NOW ZAD, Afghanistan, May 31, 2012 - Marines and sailors have fought alongside each other for more than 230 years, with Navy corpsmen, doctors and nurses continuously keeping Marines fit for battle. But for many, spiritual needs are another important element of readiness. Navy Chaplain (Cmdr.) Francis Foley, command chaplain for 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, visited Marines and sailors here May 27.

*"It is such a great feeling when the chaplain comes out here to visit us," said Marine Corps 1st Lt. Rick Chapman, police advisory team executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Chapman said the visits not only increase morale, but also allow service members to seek spiritual guidance.*

*"The Chaplain Corps provides Marines the opportunity to look into the spiritual side of life," Chapman said. "When the chaplain visits and the Marines attend the services, it gives them a taste of home and allows them to forget about the worries they have around here."*

*Chapman said Marines go to the services to partake in religious activities and to be around others who share their beliefs with a leader of their faith. But the chaplain's presence also gives them a chance express their anxieties and day-to-day frustrations, he added.*

*"Father Foley's visit gives the Marines here the ability to vent to someone else," Chapman said. "It's very helpful for them to talk to an outsider about certain subjects."*

*Foley is one of four Catholic chaplains in Regional Command Southwest. With so few chaplains in the area, Foley said, he tries to get out to various outposts to speak with Marines and let them know their sacrifices are appreciated and that their hard work does not go unnoticed.*

*"I always thank the troops for what they do," said Foley, who hails from Philadelphia. "To hear that from a stranger means a lot to these guys."*

*Many Marines at remote outposts, such as this one in Afghanistan's Helmand province, do get many chaplain visits as they'd like. Foley said he tries to get out to these troops as much as he can, often delivering care packages to help in raising their spirits.*

*"Bringing the care packages is a really big deal to these guys," Chapman said. "Little things like peanut butter, snacks and socks mean so much to them. It gives them insight from home and what they're fighting for."*

The visits also give him first-hand perspective into how the Marines and sailors live, the chaplain said, and give him a great appreciation for the amenities he has at Camp Leatherneck. Marines in remote outposts sometimes go days without electricity, rarely receive hot meals and sleep on cots nightly. Foley said he has visited about 18 forward operating bases and combat outposts and plans to visit many more Marines and sailors while he is out here.

"I try to get out as much as I can and see the Marines out there," he said. "If I can get them to smile and laugh, I've done my job and made it easier for the next chaplain who comes to visit them."



## AAP Walking Wounded Program



**One of our most important programs is helping our wounded Troops.** Please extend a helping hand to AAP's Walking Wounded Program. AdoptaPlatoon assists our U.S. Troops who have been injured or wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. Our Nation's injured and wounded Troops need extra help for themselves and/or their families financially paying utility bills, rent, car repair costs, or providing groceries for a month or two or helping with school clothes and school supplies for their children. Some of these Heroes have endured many medical procedures, surgeries, and physical therapy and by extending an AAP helping hand, we are letting our active duty wounded warriors and our wounded veterans (Afghanistan and Iraqi wars) know that America will never forget them and they will always be our Heroes!

If you would like to participate in assisting our Wounded Troops, please make your tax-deductible donation to **AAP Walking Wounded** and mail to:

**AAP Walking Wounded  
Attn: Ida  
P.O. Box 234**

**Lozano, Texas 78568**

Your kindness is deeply appreciated and all donations will be acknowledged.

You can also make your tax-deductible donation via Pay-Pal. Please go to our website, [www.adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org), to do this.



**Thank You/Appreciation Emails From AAP Supporters**

Hi AAP,

The stop date for the Service Member I'm currently supporting is here. I would love to receive the name of a new service member to support.

Thank you very much for all you do. I am so grateful for this program!! The two years I've been with you have been such a blessing!

Have a great day and keep up the amazing work!

Elizabeth

Date Applied: Feb. '10

---

Hi,  
My name is Ella and I currently write to 2 soldiers in Afghanistan. This organization is wonderful and I'm so grateful it exists.

Thanks,

Date Applied: Feb. '12

---

Thank you for notifying me to stop sending support. I have adopted 2 other Soldiers so I'm going to wait to adopt another until my current 2 are back home. This was my first experience adopting a soldier and I have to tell you it's been amazing. Although I haven't heard from all 3 of my Soldiers I feel a deep connection to them and their well being. Participating in your program has definitely been a truly wonderful experience for my entire family. Thank you all for creating AdoptaPlatoon!

Very best regards,  
Sue

Date Applied: Dec. '11

---

Hi!  
I have had a couple of Soldiers I have adopted and have really enjoyed getting my family involved with it as well. It's been a great blessing to our family and since Nicholas has recently returned home we are ready to adopt another one. I was able hear back from the first soldier I adopted, but didn't get to from this most recent one, so hopefully he did get receive the packages and stuff we sent. If not then we are grateful to be able to help whoever it did go to.

Thanks so much for creating this special opportunity for people like us to be able to feel as though we can do something here while those who are serving this country give up so much to be there.

In Gratitude,  
Donna

Date Applied: March '11

---

I would like to support another individual Service Member because mine is now going home!

Thanks so much! And May God bless you for all that you do for our troops!

Jessica

Date Applied: March '04 and she is only 27 y/o

---

AdoptaPlatoon

It has been my honor to participate in helping our troops these past eight years. Mostly, though, a big Thank You from me to all of you for all of the organizational work you do to make this happen.

Take care,

Tom

Date Applied: Sept '04

---

I want our service men and women to know Americans do appreciate their service. This program is amazing and I want to be a part of this, and grow and adopt many soldiers in the months to come. God Bless you for starting this program and being a blessing to our military.

Karen

Date Applied: May '12



**For Federal Employees:** If you are a federal employee, please also remember AdoptaPlatoon in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by donating during the next fall campaign. AAP's assigned CFC number is 99368



[www.adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org)

**The Soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the Soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. –Douglas MacArthur**

**On behalf of AdoptaPlatoon and the Troops we serve, many words of grateful gratitude are expressed to our devoted Supporters and Donors. May God bless you and yours and may**  
**God Bless the U.S.A.**



**Pray for the families who have lost sons and daughters to these wars. As of June 1, 2012, America has lost 1828 Service Members in Afghanistan.**

**AdoptaPlatoon- Full Battle Rattle Newsletter - June 2012 - All Rights Reserved**