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Subject: ANYSOLDIER THANK YOU

Date: Fri, 1 Aug 2008 10:53:38 +0300

From: "Westerfield MSgt Steven T (VMAQ-3 Maint Chief)" <steven.westerfield@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil>

To: jkgoldwing@sbcglobal.net

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED



Non Vedere Est Credere

"Not Seeing Is Believing"

Dear Jerry,

My name is MSgt Steven T. Westerfield. You recently sent a care package via myself and I'm writing to thank you for that kind gesture. Your packages contents were spot on for our current situation, thank you. Thank you for serving as well. My oldest brother was in the Air Force in Vietnam.

I didn't write much about my unit so I'll tell you who we are: We are Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare squadron three. Our aircraft is the EA-6B. You can Google that description and find out more than I could ever tell you! Summer is in full swing and we're hovering around 120 + a day. We've been inundated with sand storms of late and it's almost impossible to keep the sand out of our rooms. We live in "tins" which are about 8x18(?). The younger Marines sleep two to a tin but thank god us older crew have our own. We don't have water/toilets in the tins; they're only for sleeping, hanging out in. The bathrooms are in front of and behind our living areas. Kind of a pain when you need to use them after you've already turned in but you adapt. Between the heat and 12 on 12 off shifts we have to try and sleep with aircraft taking off and landing. Unfortunately this is because we live only about 50 feet from the taxi way and 100 yards from the runway itself. You get used to it and it only keeps you awake some of the time.

The chow hall is nothing if not plentiful in food. Highest quality is hard to get when you're serving over 400 a meal but they do a good job. It's only about a 1 ¼ walk to the chow hall and another ¼ mile to work. Some of us have bicycles and we have buses running as well.

We have over 200 Marines with me and it's a unique situation in how we're

all located in our work spaces. We're spread out over 5 different locations and in each we have a couple sponsors for "anysoldier.com". You provide the support that keeps service people going while they're away from our families, homes and the good ole USA .

Everything makes a difference when it comes from home (USA). Mail call has always been an anticipated event in the military throughout the ages. Now, as much as ever, it's not what you received but just that you did receive something. Even if an item isn't addressed to you (anysoldier packages) the excitement comes from seeing what's inside!!! All the hygiene items are a necessity and greatly appreciated. Likewise the magazines, goofy stuff provide a few moments of joyfulness by just forgetting where we are and enjoying a moment.

There isn't really any way to show you our appreciation for you taking the time to care but know that you touch many Marines lives with what you do.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and may God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,
MSgt S. Westerfield
VMAQ-3 Maint Chief
USMC
Al Asad, Iraq