

OUR MISSION

The mission of the First Command Package Brigade is to show love and appreciation for America's military service members engaged in active combat and operational deployments throughout the world. Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the Package Brigade collects donations, prepares care packages, and mails goods and letters to boost morale and demonstrate support for our troops and their missions. Recognizing that freedom is precious, we dedicate our efforts to supporting those who sacrifice so much to preserve it for all Americans.

1 FirstComm Plaza
Fort Worth, Texas 76109-4999



HONORING HEROES
ONE PACKAGE
AT A TIME.

WHAT IS THE PACKAGE BRIGADE?

The Package Brigade is a group of volunteers—many of them current employees at First Command Financial Services—who regularly donate their time and energy for the benefit of U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Package Brigade volunteers gather donations of money and items such as snacks, candy and toiletries to package and ship to our troops overseas seven times a year.



The organization was started in 2003 by First Command employee Vicky Rollins, whose brother was deployed to Iraq in the early months of the war.

Vicky wanted her brother and his fellow soldiers to have a little piece of home, so she and a few of her coworkers sent care packages for the holiday season.

Now, dozens of volunteers regularly ship packages to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq around holidays including Valentine's Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

The Package Brigade has also enlisted the help of school children. Many schools have helped gather donations for packages and have also contributed notes, letters and time to bring smiles to the faces of U.S. soldiers.

HOW DOES THE PACKAGE BRIGADE WORK?

Step 1 - Volunteers gather donations of money and appropriate items from First Command employees and anyone who would like to donate.

Step 2 - The Package Brigade purchases items with the donations. Common items include snack crackers, beef jerky, trail mix, candy, drink mixes, phone cards, toys and games.

Step 3 - Package Brigade volunteers gather before holidays to fill boxes with items, preparing them carefully to allow for the most items to be shipped.

Step 4 - Letters, notes and cards are added to packages before they are sealed.

Step 5 - Because the packages must travel across continents and countries, they are fitted with five customs forms, which volunteers fill out by hand.



As you can see, getting packages from here to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan is quite a process!

HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN HELP

Here's how your organization can help support the Package Brigade.

- **Host a fundraiser with your group** - a carwash, bake sale or other fundraiser is a great way to help the Package Brigade purchase more items and send more packages to troops.
- **Be creative!** Letters, notes, banners, artwork or even an audio greeting on CD from your group can have a world of meaning to a soldier far from home.



Please note: The Package Brigade is unable to accept photographs or videos for packages. Please consider an audio greeting or signature banner as an alternative.

Financial donations or other items (cards, letters, banners, audio greetings) should be addressed to:

The Package Brigade
c/o Vicky Rollins
1FirstComm Plaza
Fort Worth, TX 76109-4999
www.packagebrigade.org

The Package Brigade is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations are tax-deductible. The Package Brigade is independent of First Command Financial Services, Inc. and its related entities.