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First Command's Package Brigade helps soldiers beat the summer heat **Volunteers sew more than 600 cooling ties for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan**

Fort Worth, Texas – For the past few weeks, much of the country has been dealing with the discomfort of record-high temperatures that sometimes reach into the triple digits. But for U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, handling the summer heat can be an especially grueling challenge as they must deal with temperatures of nearly 120 degrees Fahrenheit while carrying up to 30 pounds of equipment.

To help soldiers beat the heat, a group of volunteers at First Command Financial Services spent a recent Friday creating more than 600 cooling ties. Made of water-absorbing polymers, these ties are designed to be soaked in water and worn around the neck. They can provide a soldier with up to 24 hours of cooling relief.

More than 30 members of the Package Brigade, a group of volunteers who send care packages to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, spent a day cutting fabric strips, sewing and ironing seams and filling the tubular-shaped ties with water-absorbing polymers.

“It is a simple thing we can do to let our soldiers know we’re thinking of them,” said Vicky Rollins, Package Brigade founder and organizer.

The Package Brigade will gather again later this month to assemble and ship packages to U.S. troops for the Labor Day holiday.

First Command Financial Services and its subsidiaries, including **First Command Bank** and **First Command Financial Planning**, assist American families in their efforts to build wealth, reduce debt and pursue their lifetime financial goals and dreams—focusing on consumer behavior as the first and most powerful determinant of results. Through personalized financial plans that emphasize accumulating wealth while reducing risk,, **First Command Financial** Advisors have established lasting relationships with hundreds of thousands of client families since 1958.

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