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How To Help Hometown Heroes Overseas For The Holidays

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Video
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CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A reporter usually remains objective and keeps himself out of the story; this will have to be an exception.

I spent all of my 20s in the Air Force, serving in South Korea, Germany and Japan. It was something I was proud to do. I enjoyed seeing the world.

Even so, you miss home. You miss celebrating the holidays with family and friends. You miss living in a place that's familiar. Sometimes you feel very isolated and lonely.

I served during peacetime. I can't imagine how it must be for the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who not only feel what I felt, but also live and work in combat zones.

Regardless what any of us think about the war, I think we all love and respect our neighbors, sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers who serve by putting themselves in harm's way.

But what can you do to show you care, especially if you don't personally know someone who's "over there"?

You can send a letter or a care package.

I still remember how great it was to get a letter or a box with cookies in it when I served. It makes

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you feel so good to know someone cares about you when you are far away from home.

Connecting with someone overseas is easy. There is a website that will even take the guess work out of what to send in a care package.

Here's the link: AnySoldier.com.

Troops sign up for this site and can post letters and pictures on-line. Many give suggestions for what they'd like in a care package and tell you a little about themselves and their circumstances in the far corners of the world.

The site let's you select the troops you correspond with by several criteria, including what branch of service they're in, what state their unit is from and their gender.

Several people in our area are already using this site to make life a little brighter for our hometown heroes overseas.

In the sidebar of this article, there's a video about a woman from Mt. Pleasant who's connected with 60 Camp Lejeune marines deployed to Iraq. Take a look and maybe you'll decide to be the next chapter in this happy holiday story.

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