



About Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, September 2011

Since April 2003, Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, Inc. (AaSP) has worked to improve the morale of our troops and their families. AaSP has impacted tens of thousands of American Warriors through an all-volunteer “federation” of core supporters; Special Friends, corporations and benefactors; organizations, schools and the like.

Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon, Inc. is recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit public charity. AaSP’s 2010 audited financial statements show that 93.8% of every dollar collected went to our programs to help the troops!

In the Theater of Operations

Today, AaSP is supporting well over 160 units in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, including:

- Two 10th MTN DIV Battalions fighting in southern AFG – the 2-87 IN and 1-32 IN
- 8th Marine RGT in southern AFG (about 3,000 Marines)
- MWR (Morale Welfare Recreation) units in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait
- [71st EOD \(Explosive Ordinance Disposal\) Group throughout AFG](#)
- Several large military hospitals in AFG, IRQ and KUW.

The bread and butter of most organizations like AaSP are the care cartons – boxes filled with healthy snacks; personal care items and entertainment amenities. Care cartons are sent every week. If our troops are in very austere conditions and lack basic resources such as a PX or gym, we send them an even wider variety of goodies.

Here are some of the items we’ve sent:

- Exercise mats, TRX resistance kits, kettle bells and mobile tennis courts
- Electronics such DVD players, camcorders and even 25,000 blank DVDs so Soldiers could read books to their children at Christmas-time
- K-9 equipment and treats for the Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and handlers
- Female personal care items for nurses and female Warriors
- Live Christmas trees
- Pallets of ice tea stix, protein chews, cup soups, coffee and Girl Scout cookies
- Hundreds of Xboxes and more than 5,000 video games
- Popcorn machines; coffee makers and an espresso machine; ice makers, microwaves and small refrigerators
- Soccer, softball, volleyball equipment; soccer uniforms; horseshoes, dartboards
- Clothing for Afghan and Iraqi locals as well as school supplies for children
- Funds to send an Iraqi infant’s parents to Jordan to accompany their daughter for a critical operation (which then generated intelligence that saved American lives)
- Flight pillows for over 3,000 soldiers in the 50th IBCT (Infantry Brigade Combat Team) of the NJ ARNG (Army National Guard) before their deployment to Iraq
- Art supplies for a hospital in AFG
- A 25-ft American flag for a Platoon’s Independence Day celebration in AFG

Last year, [AaSP brought 11 Washington Redskins Cheerleaders to Afghanistan](#) to participate in the first “X Bowl Afghanistan,” an Xbox 360 Madden Football video tournament and variety show for the Warriors. While there, AaSP adopted the entire 101st Airborne Div, providing care cartons, exercise gear, entertainment amenities, tennis courts and athletic equipment; as well as school supplies for 40 Afghan girls.

The most exciting and far-reaching support of our troops probably come from projects:

- AaSP’s first major project was in 2005, to replace an [MWR tent destroyed in Iraq](#).
- [Operation Children Care](#) provides clothing, school supplies and recreational gear to Iraqi and Afghan children.
- [Operation Teddy Bear](#) brings joy to our Wounded and their families
- AaSP sent [guitars](#) to Iraq and Kuwait in 2011 to enable lessons for the troops
- AaSP has supported 7 Super Bowl parties, including the [2011 party in AFG](#)
- AaSP staged a Rock Band tournament at [Camp Anaconda](#) and [Baghdad](#)
- Worked with [DHL to deliver Girl Scout cookies](#) and [live Christmas trees](#)
- Partnered with [Atlas Air Worldwide to provide goodies to aviation units](#)
- Operation Xbox sent [Xbox 360 consoles and games](#) to MWR centers

“I received a care package from the Adopt a Soldier Platoon this week and wanted to take a moment to drop a line and say THANK YOU!! I have been an adoptee since 2005 when I was deployed to Iraq. Now in Afghanistan, I have had many opportunities to see your outstanding work in action. Your thoughtful package brought smiles to the folks in my office. THANK YOU for your generous gift and for your continued support of all of us deployed around the world. You are truly an inspiration and a reflection of the American Spirit we all deployed to defend. It is truly a privilege to call you all friends.”
Vincent M, AFG, 21 Sept 2011.

On the Home Front

A good-sized portion of what AaSP does involves communicating with the folks back home and letting them know what AaSP is doing, getting feedback on what their Troopers want and providing that extra something that helps them get through each day. AaSP does this through affiliation with FRGs (Family Readiness Groups) of the units it supports, as well as joining unit Facebook pages.

AaSP devotes time and energy to the Wounded Heroes as well – they are truly America’s treasures. AaSP has partnered with the Washington Redskins Cheerleaders to visit Walter Reed, Bethesda and now the combined Walter Reed Nat’l Military Medical Center in Bethesda to visit the Wounded Heroes and their families. It certainly puts smiles on our Warriors’ (and their families’) faces.

On its web site, www.adoptasoldierplatoon.org, AaSP created [pages](#) of resources and links (with the help of the Veterans Administration and other organizations) that contain valuable information for our Wounded Heroes and their families. We are continuously ramping up our support for the Wounded and their families.

Through Army Emergency Relief (AER), AaSP donates to families at Picatinny Arsenal (NJ) and food and personal care items to the families at McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst and the armories in Newark, Jersey City, Riverdale and Teaneck, NJ.

AaSP is a Federation of Volunteers, Special Friends and Benefactors – the Best of America

AaSP comprises a small, dedicated core team of volunteers, who enable the day-to-day administration of the organization and its activities.

There are four Trustees in Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon:

- Alan Krutchkoff, President and Co-Founder; US Air Force Veteran, retired corporate communications manager
- Allan Virginia, Treasurer; US Navy Veteran, Vietnam Vet; CPA; retired corporate audit director & business consultant
- Dennis Maloney, Assistant Treasurer; US Army Veteran, Vietnam Vet; CPA; retired corporate financial manager
- Lara Spina, Vice President of Special Projects; mother of two

- Anne Neilson is Corporate Secretary; word processing manager for large, int'l law firm
- Holmes Brady is Historian and Co-Founder; US Army Veteran; IT professional
- Kim Daves (independent insurance agent) and Lynne Gilbert (HR director) are Project Managers
- Rob Evans (IT professional) Sports Director; Nancy D'Uva (magazine writer/editor) Feedback Manager; George Zutell (CPA, corporate tax mgr) Corporate Liaison

Another two dozen Core Team volunteers help out packing and shipping on a regular basis. Special Friends organizations/companies/clubs number another 50 or more. Another 600 Supporters and/or interested parties occasionally contribute to the well being of the troops. So it's a relatively small organization that makes a big impact!

Special Friends

Our roster of Special Friends is nationwide. Special Friends are citizens that want to support our troops and need an avenue to do so. AaSP provides direct contact to units and families as well as guidelines and the ability to deliver that support. Special Friends include:

- Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops
- Churches and synagogues; Rotary, Elks, UNICO and other civic and service organizations and like-minded charities.
- Corporations and businesses of all sizes and kinds
- Hospitals, public and private schools, and colleges and universities
- Law enforcement agencies and local Chambers of Commerce.

Our corporate benefactors have been outstanding. They include: Unilever – a supporter from the beginning of the program, providing branded goods, donating used laptops, funding a tour to AFG, and providing warehouse space and postage for our packages. Microsoft and its publishing partners have donated Xbox consoles and thousands of video games to send to the troops and give to the Wounded in hospitals. Atlas Air Worldwide has an annual charity golf outing for AaSP and our troops. Bryan Cave Law creates all of AaSP's adoptee customs forms and labels. And there are many others.

In short, AaSP represents the best of American patriotism, generosity and compassion – from grassroots support to corporate benefactors.

“... Your patriotism is a gift that cannot be packaged; but it is a gift that continues to mean the most to each of us,” said a Commanding Officer of a major medical facility in a letter dated 2 April 2011.

Awards and Recognition

AaSP has been pleased to accept recognition on behalf of all its supporters and Special Friends. It's the “federation” of generous, compassionate and patriotic Supporters across America that enable AaSP to have an even greater impact. AaSP works with our units to ensure that any thanks the Warriors want to pass along go directly to those who provide the support. This makes volunteering in AaSP more personal and our Warriors enjoy meeting the patriotic and generous citizens.

- In October 2008, Alan Krutchkoff, H. Allan Virginia, Lara Spina and Holmes Brady received a Freedom Team Salute award from then BG William Phillips
- In November 2008, Adopt-a-Soldier Platoon was awarded the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service by LTC Carlos Morales of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion “for exceptional meritorious service in support of the morale and welfare of the soldiers and families of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. Your sincere concern and care truly exemplify your selfless service.”
- In August 2009, AaSP President Alan Krutchkoff accepted the Philip Mazzei Americanism Grand Patriot Award from UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States, in behalf of AaSP.
- In May of 2010, AaSP received the [Ellis Island Medal of Honor](#), by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO.org).
- In June 2010, AaSP received the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service from COL Bertrand A. Ges, Commander CJTF Paladin, AFG, “for exceptionally meritorious civilian service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.”
- In September 2010, AaSP received the State of New Jersey Commendation Medal from Gov. Chris Christie and MG Glenn K Rieth, TAG, “For meritorious service in support of soldiers and family members of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during and after their deployment to Iraq...”
- In April 2011, AaSP also received a Commander's Commendation from GEN David H. Petraeus “In grateful appreciation of your generous contributions to International Security Assistance Force.”

Some other examples of recognition received by AaSP and its Supporters include Certificates of Appreciation, American Flags and Coins of Excellence.

News items can be found in AaSP's [News Room](#). Testimonials can be found in a [special section on AaSP's](#) website and emails from the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen can be found in the “[From Our Adoptees](#)” section.

To learn how a minor car accident gave birth to AaSP, [visit the AaSP About Us page](#) on the web site.

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