

From SPC Maggie Hearn, 32d Signal Bn, CMD Group, LSA Anaconda, Balad AB, Iraq



We have all felt it; those moments when we inadvertently let our guard down and allow loneliness to creep up on us like a stealthy adversary. We quietly chide ourselves over our brief moment of pause during which our minds wander to another place, another continent, another life. We stubbornly remind ourselves that we chose this life; we signed the contract and so, in the words of nearly every Drill Sergeant, “drink water, change your socks, and continue on marching, Troop!”

We go about our routines; our daily schedules we have developed to help the days pass by a little more quickly only to find ourselves glancing at the clock. After a few brief calculations, we smile, “it’s only 3:00am back home, everyone is still asleep...” Without a pause we wake ourselves at all hours of the night, rush to the MWR phones or computers and desperately dial the numbers or type the addresses that connect us with our lives, our loved ones, our families.

We often wonder what the point of it all is... why are we here, what are we doing, what is our purpose? We question our sanity, question our dedication to our families, question their dedication to us, question our reasons for joining the military; is it all going to be worth it? We remember the look in their eyes before we left; the eyes of a father, his regret mixed with pride as he begins to realize that this is a battle he cannot fight for his little girl; the eyes of a mother which are filled with tears as she lets go of her son, her pride and joy; children, gazing at their parent, eyes pleading for them to stay; wives and husbands remaining stoic and strong, fighting back the tears that expose the dread in their hearts... is it all worth it?

And then a package comes for us, one that is filled with letters and treats from home. We receive thanks for doing our job, for keeping people safe, for “sustaining the line,” for keeping America safe. Adopt-a-Platoon, that was started as “something nice to do” for a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne, has been boosting morale throughout the 32nd Signal Battalion and the entire Army. We stay clean, satiated, and content through the kindness that this organization has shown.

It is difficult to describe the emotions that one experiences while deployed but it is easy to express appreciation for the support we receive from home. When you see the American Flag flying high, any patriot’s heart nearly bursts with pride; a similar feeling is felt when we receive mail: we are proud of our supporters and proud of those that take time out of their day to send thanks. In all seriousness, total strangers have played a major role in the lives of the deployed soldiers; receiving your mail and gifts boosts our spirits, raises our morale, and puts smiles on our faces!

Adopt-a-Platoon, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines salute you. Your incredible kindness has proven the country’s dedication to their military-service members; we know who and what we are fighting for which, for us, translates into motivation. Thank you, for all that you do, have done, and will do in the future.