

# *Patriot Responses for Popcorn*

## **Letter #1**

To the Boy Scouts in the Cedar Rapids area,

Thanks so much for the USA Patriots popcorn. That is one thing that is hard for me to get is popcorn. I do not have a microwave and when I am back in my barracks at night that is what I love is a bowl of popcorn. It is hard to have someone ship over popcorn because it takes up so much room in the boxes. So anyway you made my day.

A little about myself, I am 50 years old and have been in the military for 26 years. I am a Chief Warrant Officer 4 and my area of expertise is weapons. I supervise a section that works on machine guns, grenade launchers, mortars, pistols, howitzers, pretty much anything that makes a boom. We also work on surveillance equipment, night vision and optics associated with weapons. I really like my job and I have great soldiers that work for me.

I am currently stationed at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. My unit works out of a motor pool which is basically what you would call an automotive shop back home. I have a room in this shop to do my business and then we have soldiers that work on vehicles, mostly MRAPS, communications equipment such as radios, generator mechanics, welders and machinists and then we have a recovery section which has vehicles that they take to go pickup broken down vehicles. We stay really busy making sure the soldiers that are going out on missions have the best equipment and in the best shape. We may not be out there doing the fighting but we have a huge role in the outcome of the fight.

The base basically surrounds the airfield which is busy all the time, day and night. I flew here on a C17 which is a pretty big plane and we were crammed in like sardines. The base is pretty crowded with all the different services, other countries military, contractors and the local nationals who work on the base. We have three of the local Afghans that work in our shop so it is nice to visit with them and learn things about their culture.

I have not seen my family since August but look forward to going on leave here soon. I actually live in the Des Moines area but belong to a unit there in CR. I have two daughters 16 & 14 and a great wife who I have been married to for 27 years. She has been very strong throughout my deployment and I don't know what I would do without her. My daughters too have been very understanding and have handled this very well.

The weather here has been pretty stable, cool in the morning and warm in the afternoon 40-50's. We have had snow and rain and right now the mountains that surround the base are covered with snow. It is really pretty looking around the outside of the base at the mountains. I have not been off the base but the soldiers that work for me have. They had to go out on a mission in which they took a helicopter to all the locations. They said it was really pretty country in places and it was really cool riding a BlackHawk.

Well thanks again for the popcorn. I am humbled by all the generosity that Iowan's have shown for all the deployed soldiers here. You too are serving your country by participating in the Boy Scouts and I am proud of you. I see so many young kids who do not get involved and I commend you for taking the time to join such a good organization. Do good in school, obey and respect your parents, respect the flag and if the National Anthem does not put a lump in your throat go talk to your history teacher. I am a proud to be an American Soldier.

CW4 Chris Olsen  
Bagram, Afghanistan

## Letter #2

Scouts,

*Thank you so much for the popcorn you sent. Being so far from home and receiving gifts from loyal scouts can make a long day much better. We were sure we weren't going to get to buy popcorn from the scouts this year, but thanks to you thoughtfulness we are still able to enjoy it.*

*Scouting is a very important part of the moral infrastructure of the American way of life, you, are the future of our great country. Keep up the good work and thank you for the delicious popcorn, the chocolate caramel is my favorite. God bless each and every one of you.*

*SSG Michael John Murphy  
TF Red Bull*

## Letter #3

Scouts,

*We have received several packages of popcorn from the Scouts. I would like to thank you and all the other scouts for the tasty treat.*

*Our job is to provide communications support for units stationed on and around Bagram Airfield. We have taken pictures and will send them tomorrow, again thank you.*

*I have attached a picture of First Lieutenant Laura Walker my Executive Officer and myself with the great treat you guys sent us, thanks again!*

V/R,

*CPT Bryan Davis  
Bagram Airfield*

