

## Operation Paperback Newsletter - May 2003

### *Note*

If you are no longer interested in receiving material from Operation Paperback, please send us an email and we shall immediately delete you from the list.

### *Shipments*

We have shipped 21,630 books thus far in 2003 – Well Done all. March 2003 was our biggest volume shipping month ever, with 7,248 books sent. Our Grand Total since we began in 1999 is 125,787 books.

### *Mailing Problems:*

1. When the war began, both the domestic and the military postal systems went into one of their periodic panic-and-confusion modes. The military is banning "unsolicited" and "any person" mail; our shipments are neither of those, but many local post offices (now including my own) are adopting the play-it-safe position and not accepting our boxes unless they are addressed to a specific person, not "Chaplain", "MWR Officer", "First Sergeant", etc. There is also the very real possibility that a clerk anywhere in the train of transit – civil or military -- may choose to dump our boxes en route. Last year many recipients requested that we mail to titles rather than names, therefore we now have to go back through the records and dig out the names which we deleted. This will take some time, and in the meantime many Units will not be served. The barbarians have scored another success.

2. During the war and the buildup thereto, we tried to keep up with adding Units which were dispatched to the Middle East. Now many of these are being brought home or sent to other locations. In order to minimize the probability that we all spend our money fruitlessly, we are now limiting our mailing list to those Units which we know are still deployed overseas and for which we have individual names. This has reduced the active list dramatically from the 100+ Units which we usually serve. We will be rebuilding the list over the next several months, but in the meantime will be giving priority to Red Cross, USO, and Family Service locations because they will be able to distribute books within their areas of operations. Please remember to contact us for the latest list every time you are ready to ship.

3. As always, Members who are in contact with servicemen overseas who would like to receive books should contact us. We will need mailing address and location, and the name of the Chaplain, MWR Officer, First Sergeant, Chief, etc., of the Unit.

### *New Website*

Several Members responded to our urgent plea for help in updating and upgrading our website, and a new one is being created under the direction of Andrea Hoshmand of Boston. When it is completed, we shall no longer be distributing the Newsletter by Email, it will be posted on the website. Monthly, we hope. So we presume that this will be the last of the Emailed Newsletters. You will be able to transfer to the new website by going to the old one at <http://OpPaperback.virtualave.net>, or through the usual internet search engines. We will send you an Email notice when the website is ready.

### *Rules of the Road*

We have received information back from overseas Units that some Members are not abiding by the Rules. The most common infractions are sending religious and salacious materials, books in such poor condition that they should be junked, books which do not have Operation Paperback labels, and boxes which have our return address on them instead of yours. We send out the Rules every time we send the address list – please read and comply. For those who need a refresher or have questions just ask us.