

Operation Paperback Newsletter - July 2005

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Updated Book Counts

February 2005: 8,942 books

March 2005: 11,463 books

April 2005: 9,399 books

May 2005: 11,121 books

June 2005: 9,756 books

Grand Total: 325,311 books shipped

Yes! Operation Paperback shipments have topped 300,000 books!

New Servicemember Names Wanted!

Operation Paperback continues to grow and we have a lot of volunteers on board now (and a lot of books available). If you know someone in the military, please mention our program to them. We are happy to support both active duty and National Guard units.

Use Media Mail to Ship Books, Not Flat Rate Priority

The US Postal Service has introduced a new Flat Rate Priority shipping box for priority mail. This box costs \$7.70 for any weight and has the dimensions of 11 x 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches. *The same sized box filled with paperback books shipped via Media Mail cost us \$4.20 to mail.*

While the Flat Rate box is great for non-book items (especially canned goodies), we strongly advise all of our volunteers to use Media Mail and save yourself a couple of bucks. Your savings can be used to ship more books!

As we have stated before, Media Mail and Priority Mail reach military addresses around the same time upon entering the military mail system.

Troop Thank You Notes

You can view all troop thank you notes on our web site. However, we are including a few in our newsletter.

From Ben G. in Iraq (07.22.05): "Thank you for the books. The way they fly out of the box you would think that they were edible or something! But I myself and all the service members of 1 Squadron 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment would like to thank you for your time and support. Life out here is hard and lonely at times, but know that your sincerity and support to us goes a long way....again, thank you for all the reading material."

From Jeramy S. in Afghanistan (07.20.05): "Hello, I am Jeramy S., the TF Sabre element NCOIC. I want to thank you all for the books as they will come to great use in our off time. I have already seen my soldiers picking the ones they like and already reading them. It is very thoughtful of you all to think of us, going out of your way in sending us paperback books. From all the guys here in FOB Salerno , HOOAH! Air Cav!"

From Hortencia L. in Texas (07.18.05): "Hello folks! We would like to thank you for your generous donations of books, music cassettes, books on cassette, music CDs, and other audio materials for our wounded troops and ill service members at Wilford Hall Medical Center . In recent months we have received boxes from as far away as Mountain Home , AR , Tampa , FL , York , PA , Ogden , UT , and Rock, WVA. We also appreciate the time and effort you take to make sure these courageous individuals have some reading and listening pleasures while they are being treated at the hospital."

From Jim B. in Iraq (07.06.05): "Thank you all for the books you sent to us in Iraq . While many of the guys here spend a lot of time with video games, there are still a few of us who know how to read. I received 4 different boxes of books, and they have now become the platoon library. Many people enjoy reading, but all we had received until your boxes were a bunch of romance novels. Not exactly what a bunch of military guys like to read. SO with your boxes of mysteries, sci-fi and fantasy, things are going much better for all the avid readers in my platoon and company. Thank you all for your support and please keep us in your thoughts until we return safely to friendly soil."

From Candace C. in Japan (07.03.05): "We are extremely limited in our literary options overseas, and I was both surprised and thrilled to learn of this program. I am now reading my third Operation Paperback Novel. Thank you so much."

From Shane S. in Spain (06.27.05): "I am currently stationed in Rota , Spain . I am a Seabee in the Navy. A friend of mine received many boxes and has been sharing with us all. I just wanted to express my gratitude for the books. They arrived here in good order."

From LCDR Karen K. at the Fleet & Family Service Center, Iceland (06.21.05): "Operation Paperback: Thank you so much for your last shipment of books. The signed books by Tim Dorsey were a big hit and the books from James Swain. In a time where we have very limited funds for morale welfare and recreation, beginning able to provide hours of entertainment through reading has helped our mission immensely. It is great to know that people are thinking of our military and their families here in Iceland , although our hours of sun light are long, 24

right now, our temperature is very brisk, a lot of activities are indoors and reading is a great indulgence here. We also ensure that the books you donate are provided to our military airport so that military members can take books for their wait and long journey on deployments from here. Again thank you for your support."

From Kay P. of NSA Souda Bay (06.10.05): "I am the Librarian at NSA Souda Bay, the recipient and distributor of the all the books that you, your operation, Paula, the Kiwanis and other organizations have so generously acquired and supplied to our base. Our sailors have been thrilled with all the books and we now have a surplus of reading materials where we once had a deficit. Again, I cannot thank all of you enough for your donations and continued support. Pictures are unable to convey the joy of our sailors but, still, I have attached a few pictures from our December Book Frenzy so you can get an idea of what you enabled us to do for some US Sailors. Our men and women in uniform grabbed over 5,000 books in less than 3 days. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

From Heather P. in Basrah , Iraq (06.05.05): "Thank you, thank you, and thank you!! I received 3 boxes of books today!!! What a great variety! My personal thanks go to Joel M. in Mamaroneck, NY; Erin and Katherine of Girl Scout Troop 126 (and the citizens of Superior, CO for helping them out!); as well as Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School students (Ashley and Lyndsey) and staff in Mechanicsburg, PA. Our library began with only a few books and is growing fast!!! I will be donating the ones I just received so that others may enjoy your hard work. All of us here really appreciate your support and for taking time out of your busy lives to think about those of us serving in the military."

From Christine in Qalat , Afghanistan (06.05.05): "Thanks for sending "Mrs. Dalloway" by Virginia Woolf. I'd been wanting to read that book for a long time and I was happy to see it in a Operation Paperback package sent to one of my soldiers. It was great!

From Cathy (06.04.05): "My husband recieved the books recently, he was very surprised and grateful! They're being passed around to many of the other soldiers as well."

From Chaplain Mayfield in Okinawa: "Just wanted to let you know that, because of your donations, we were able to distribute more than 500 books to the troops during our recent Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand . The Marines and Sailors appreciated them very much. Thanks again and please keep them coming."

From Richard C: "Thanks for all the recent boxes of hardbacks. I found homes for them at Togus Veteran's Hospital in Augusta Maine. I also sent many of the paper backs forward to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq . Some of the paperbacks went to the Maine State Veteran's Homes. On my last trip to Togus I filled up the back of my cruiser with books and puzzles from you and here and gave them to the library at Togus. I can easily handle several boxes a month. The hardbacks are usually dropped of throughout the hospital. I am the Commander of my local Legion Post and this is a great part of our effort. Thanks, many of our Maine soldiers and others returning from New England go to togus for follow up treatment. I was recalled to duty from retirement in 2002 and returned home and currently am being treated for cancer as a result of exposure to agent orange in Vietnam many years before Afghanistan . Thanks for your support."

From Kevin F: "Thank you for the books you sent to Haiti , via TF New Horizon's 05. Just wish I would have known about this program 2 months earlier when we first got here. You helped the troops out a lot here. Thanks again."

New Web Site

What do you think of the new web site? We hope you like it! Let us know at OpWebmaster@usmilitarysupport.org.

Andrea's Email Changed

My email address has changed, so for those of you who are in the habit of directly emailing me for a list, please do not use the ahoshmand@comcast.net address anymore. Comcast says I have access to it for about 30 more days and then it will be shut off. Send your emails to OpWebmaster@usmilitarysupport.org . Thanks!

Usual Reminders

Do Not Use Old Address Lists

The list changes daily now! When you are ready to head to the post office, email OpAddresses@usmilitarysupport.org and get the latest list.

Thanks for volunteering!

Please never hesitate to contact us with ideas or suggestions. We are always working to make Operation Paperback bigger and better!