

Operation Paperback Newsletter - January 2006

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2005 was a wonderful year for Operation Paperback. This year alone we shipped over 100,000 books. More than 1,300 US military units in 34 countries around the world have been recipients of our program. We are so grateful that our volunteer roster has also grown to over 3,700 individuals and organizations.

Chrissy, Dan and Andrea thank all volunteers for their efforts. Without their generous donations of books, postage funds, and time, we would not be where we are today.

As we begin our seventh year of operation, we wish you and your families a happy new year and ask that you always keep our US servicemembers in your thoughts and prayers.

1. Updated Book Counts

July 2005 – 14,491

August 2005 – 15,178

September 2005 – 13,940

October 2005 – 9,534

November 2005 – 11,165

December 2005 – 19,903

Grand Total: 409,522 books shipped

2. Operation Paperback Featured in USA Weekend

On December 4, 2005 Operation Paperback was featured in a USA Weekend article about bringing Christmas cheer to the troops. We received more than 700 new volunteers as a result of this news story. You can read the archived article at:

http://www.usaweekend.com/05_issues/051204/051204military_giving.html.

3. 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.

4. Help Gulf Coast Libraries

We recently received a request from a librarian down in the Gulf Coast who asked if we could help rebuild libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina. If you have books that you are interested in donating to Gulf Coast libraries, please email us at OpPaper2@att.net for more information.

5. Warning on sending romance novels

We have received notes from servicemembers saying that they are receiving boxes of old romance novels and there simply is no demand for these books. We have found this complaint is coming frequently from our addresses designated as “non-Middle East” and also our female servicemembers. Our no-romances-unless-requested rule applies to *all* Operation Paperback addresses, not just the Middle East and male troops. Please abide by them. It’s very important to us that our troops are receiving a good variety of reading material.

6. 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 Christian S. in Baghdad, Iraq: “Thanks again for another shipment of paperbacks. We received 2 boxes from the Hewlett-Packard Company in Houston, TX. Your donations are always a welcome addition to our hospital library.”

From Jason R. in Kandahar, Afghanistan: “Thank you for your gift of books. Your package was well received and in perfect condition. All literature has been donated to the firebase library started by members of the Texas National Guard. On behalf of all soldiers who make their home in Afghanistan, thank you for your generous gift.”

From Louis J. in Iraq: “This message is for the wonderful ladies of the Lydia Class at Harbor City Baptist Church and Operation Paperback, I received the box of books that you all sent to me. I want to thank you very much for them. I took a few for myself to read and shared the rest with my unit. There are 300 of us who are based out of Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and we have a MWR (Morale, Welfare & Recreation) building that we're in charge of. In that building, we have built a library and the majority of the books you sent are now there for everyone to use. Again, I really appreciate your generosity and you care for us troops. May God richly bless each one of you.”

From Joe M. in Iraq: “Thanks for the shipment of books! I've received a couple of boxes from you and make a point of sharing with the rest of my team and then putting the books in a central distribution area so the rest of the folks on the FOB can look through them. It may seem like a simple thing to you but it means a lot to have the folks back home supporting us even in these simple ways.”

From Sandra P. in Iraq: “I received some books today that I plan on sharing with my team when we get a chance to read them. We just got in country and have been working non-stop. A good book is like a vacation. I am looking forward to reading all of them. I have also signed up to be

a volunteer. I think this is a greatest site ever. It means a lot to us when complete strangers take time out of their lives to send us stuff. Thank you so much God Bless You.”

Thanks for volunteering!

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