

**Jewish War Veterans
of the U.S.A.**

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SOS Program



“Send A Salami To Your Soldier in the Army”

For as long as soldiers have been serving away from their homes and loved ones, a package from home has always been an important reminder from those for whom the soldier is serving that shows their love and caring for the well-being of the troops. Those who are fighting in distant lands especially need the support and care of those who remain on the home front.

The ringing phrase from World War II, "Send a Salami to a Boy in the Army," is just one example of how a taste of home has been important throughout history to those who leave their homes in order to defend them.

The JWV SOS (Support Our Service Members) program is the latest recognition of this desire to let those who are currently serving know that we on the home front are thinking of them and supporting them. Through this program the JWV sends packages, generally of toiletries and kosher food items to those who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and stationed far away from home. We also supply special foods and ritual items for those celebrating the Jewish holidays on base or on the battlefield. The JWV can also customize packages to specific requests, such as those we have filled for coffee, packaged kosher meals, or items customized for special needs, such as an Oneg Shabbat.

Since 9/11, new rules have been put into effect to protect the security of our troops. Because of this heightened security, packages can be sent only to a specifically named service person with a specific APO or FPO address. No package will be delivered to "Any Soldier," for example. JWV will send the packages to specific service members, ensuring that your package will get delivered.



What You Should Give

- Grape Juice
- Kosher Wine
- Challah
- Salami
- Gelfilte Fish
- Candy (Lickies and Chewies)
- Instant Coffee
- Protein Bars
- Bagel Chips
- Dried Fruit
- Kosher Snacks
- Candles
- Books to Read
- Decks of Playing Cards
- Cereal
- Kosher items relevant for seasonal Jewish holidays
- Hand-written cards of support
- Hand Sanitizer
- Baby Wipes

WHY OUR WORK IS IMPORTANT

If you have ever purchased coffee, bought lunch or helped a service member out, you know how much those small gestures mean to our troops.

Troops that are deployed or training in the field have little to no contact with the ones they love. Most of the comforts of home are not available to them.

GIVE THEM SOME LICKIES AND CHEWIES

Most soldiers are given MREs (Meals Ready To Eat) when deployed or out in the field training. If you have ever seen or eaten an MRE, you know they are especially know for their “delicious” flavors—that is why snacks and other ready to go foods are appreciated by the troops.

THINGS TO OCCUPY THEIR DOWNTIME

Being in training or deployed, there is a lot of down time. Things like a deck of cards or books to read can really help our service members stay motivated to complete their missions.

KEEPING THEIR FAITH AND TRADITIONS ALIVE

Some soldiers can get stationed in geographically isolated areas. In these areas, kosher foods are difficult to come by. Many soldiers have to drive hours to the nearest kosher food store or just forego kosher items because they are not available to them where they are stationed. It is important to send troops these items so that we can keep their Jewish traditions and faith strong.

THANK YOU LETTER

Our hearts are warmed by the expressions of thanks that we have received from those who have been the recipients of our packages. The letter below, received from Rabbi Mitchell Schranz, former Jewish Chaplain in Iraq, as he prepared to leave that battleground, sums up the feelings engendered in the troops by our program.

Dear JWV:

Thank you so much for all your support, concern & love for the Troops. Also, many thanks for all you do for our Veterans. They are a very special group of men & women.

It was an honor to serve our people here in Iraq.

Chaplain Mitch Schranz



Cadets at Jewish Warrior Weekend