

RESPONSES FROM OUR TROOPS

"I just got back from mission. We use the snack packs to gain back weight we lost on the mission. We are getting ready to go out again..." Private First Class, Army

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation for your thoughtful packages. Our unit really enjoyed the snacks you and your students put together. Many of the snacks you sent can't be found here in Iraq. It gives us a little reminder and taste of home. We particularly enjoy the notes and letter..." Lieutenant Colonel, Air Force

"...letters and packages really keep morale up in the hard times..." Specialist, Army

"I have received numerous care packages from you and your class, and I really don't know what else I can say or do but say thanks. It is really nice to know there are still people who care about us over here, despite the unpopularity of what's going on....I think that God is watching from above, but it's nice to know that people have our backs....we, the ones on the ground....all we ever ask of the people is to support the soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors who volunteered to serve..." Corporal, Marines

"Your "Troop snack packs" are a big hit when they arrive. They don't last very long..." Master Sergeant, Special Operations Squadron

"You're the class that sends the good stuff..." Specialist, Army

MOTS 2009-2010 GOALS

- Continue to send local Troops monthly care packages.
- Continue "Stamps for Troops", "Mail Call", and other programs designed to give our elementary students the opportunity to support the Troops and hear back from our deployed Troops.
- M.O.T.S will continue to provide support to Manatee and Sarasota County children who have a household member deployed in war by providing information to the children's guardian, teacher, and guidance counselor as well as continue monthly activities for children and their families. Funded in part by The Women's Leadership Initiative Grant.
- M.O.T.S will provide welcome home packages to our returning vets which include the book "Down Range" and a variety of gift certificates from local businesses.
- M.O.T.S will hold monthly functions for OIF/OEF Veterans.
- M.O.T.S plans to grow as a unifying agency for local Troops, families, and Veterans, connecting them with outside agencies and resources.

Manasota
Operation
Troop
Support



**LAKEWOOD BUSINESS PARK
4301 32ND ST W, SUITE C-20
BRADENTON, FLORIDA 34205**

**CONTACT M.O.T.S.
(941)782-0748
E-MAIL: mots2009@live.com
WEBSITE: MOTSONline.org**

We Know **YOU** are there, and **WE CARE** !

How M.O.T.S Began

Manasota Operation Troop Support started in September of 2007. A local teacher, Jim Comkowycz, and his special needs class had been sending care packages to local Troops, including Jim's son, Jeff. Jeff was wounded and returned home to Walter Reed Hospital and a long process of healing. Jim saw how much more could be done for local Troops and founded MOTS.

What M.O.T.S Does

Manasota Operation Troop Support was founded in the hopes to help and support our OIF/OEF Troops and their families, while they are overseas and when they return home. M.O.T.S has succeeded and surpassed this idea in a short two years and has become well known. M.O.T.S has succeeded in sending over 1,700 care packages costing over \$45,000 to our local Troops. We have welcomed home many local men and women to start them on the difficult transition from the world of war to this world. We provide individualized support one Troop, one Veteran at a time.

Our Mission: To support Manatee and Sarasota Counties Troops and Their Families

Our Motto: "We know YOU are there. And WE CARE!"

Our Goal: To *HELP* at the *SPEED* of *LIFE*.



Hal Willis Jr., County Veterans Services of Manatee County wrote:

"...for Manatee County, I honestly have found a full-service, hard-working, completely devoted and dedicated, 100 percent volunteer group, which, although it has only been 11 months ago, has become a very valuable asset to our military men and women and families."

MOTS 2007-2009

UNTIL NOW....

... M.O.T.S has supported 185 local Troops and their families with only donations from our generous community and an all-volunteer staff. Now, do to our partnership with Genesis Health Services, Inc. out of Sarasota, we have acquired the BRAIVE Fund administered by The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice for our project SHAIR (Support & Help for Afghanistan & Iraq Returnees).

THE BRAIVE FUND...

... will be used to make our efforts more consistent and help expand into Sarasota County. We will have an office in both counties staffed by both paid and volunteer help.

OUR OFFICES...

... serve as a place for individual and group meetings. It will be a place where Troops and their families can go and know for certain that someone else knows there is a war going on.

VETERANS...

... will be accompanied and directed by other OEF/OIF Veterans serving as advocates as they negotiate the VA and community services. There will be a safety net for medical and dental care and assistance for Troops and their families going through economically hard times.