



thank you for the care packages

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From: "Jacob Stout" <jfieldsstout@gmail.com>

To: scott@christmasforourtroops.org

A 31 year old Soldier, happy husband of one, and excited father of 4 had this to say:

20 min. ago I greatfully rummaged through about 6 boxes full of gifts and cards from CFOT. I read many of the cards and kept a handmade stocking with a poem. Then I read the letter attached and felt I must thank somebody for what I'd been given. Here's why...

After attending a memorial service of a comrade earlier this week I began to question what I was doing here in afghanistan, and what was it all for. I read this week a speech given in April 2003 by the late Gordon B. Hinckley, former prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in which he said:

In a touching letter I received just this week, a mother wrote of her Marine son who is serving for the second time in a Middle Eastern war. She says that at the time of his first deployment, "he came home on leave and asked me to go for a walk. ... He had his arm around me and he told me about going to war. He ... said, 'Mom, I have to go so you and the family can be free, free to worship as you please. ... And if it costs me my life ... then giving my life is worth it.'"He is now there again and has written to his family recently, saying, "I am proud to be here serving my nation and our way of life. ... I feel a lot safer knowing our Heavenly Father is with me."

Reading this reminded me of why I do what I do, but when I read the letter from CFOT I understood that I was seeing the results of what I was doing. And that is what has made my CFOT Christmas gift special.

Thank y'all for serving me.

Jake Stout