

## *Happy Holidays from the 300 Boodle Brigade*

We are so proud of you and the work that you are doing. We want to thank you for your continuing service to our nation and to the world. We want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers, daily, and we continue to hope that your work will be completed soon so that you might return to be with those you love. This package is just a small token of our appreciation for the sacrifices you make, but we also want to express our gratitude for your effort and dedication. We want you to feel the support and encouragement as we reach out today. We hope this package will bring a little “holiday cheer” to you and your unit.

This package was sent with love and appreciation by a West Point Mom, Dad or one of their friends. As our sons and daughters entered West Point and the military, our vocabulary increased and we were soon taught what the word “BOODLE” meant to a cadet. Boodle: any type of food or drink (cake, candy, treats...anything NOT from the mess hall)...so, as parents, we read that as: “Send me a Boodle (care) package now, please.” With that in mind, the 300 Boodle Brigade was created to send Boodle (care) packages during the holiday season to deployed service members. Three hundred (300) packages was the goal the first year this group was created....however, it has greatly surpassed that number over the past couple of years....sending out over 3000 packages last year from almost all fifty states. The overall goal increases each year, but our name remains the same. (Our first year, we thought 300 would be a stretch, but we’ve proven that “moms” can accomplish anything if they set their minds to it.)

Your name was sent to us by someone who loves you. This loved one thought you and those around you might enjoy some Christmas boodle. If you know of another soldier who would like to receive care packages in the coming months, please feel free to forward their information to West Point Moms Bake (contact info below)...another West Point Moms group that will ship packages year round. If it isn’t too much to ask, could you also pass this letter (or West Point Moms Bake information) along to your local chaplain? We would like to reach out to the Chaplains in order to reach as many additional service members as we can. We believe that if the Chaplains are willing to share their addresses with us they might be able to get some of our packages to other soldiers who might appreciate our little boxes of love!

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! We hope you enjoy your BOODLE!* And, remember, the “moms” are always thinking of you.

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