

The Cardist

A publication of
Totally for Troops
(May-June 2011)



From the Director

We're on the web. Visit us at www.totally4troops.org

The boxes are gone, the customs forms are all filed away, the tape and labels are stored, and the work area is again quiet. Between October 30th and November 11th, 6,150 cards were mailed to units serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. What an **incredible** accomplishment! Already, I have received notes of appreciation from members of the units we support, thanking all of the Totally for Troops cardists for their generosity, creativity, and thoughtfulness in remembering the men and women who are currently deployed. Many of the units we support are extremely remote, with very little in the way of creature comforts. Yet, **YOU** were mindful of that fact as you lovingly created some of the most beautiful cards I have ever seen; cards that will be treasured by the families and loved ones that receive them. Please know that your efforts last year were profound. On behalf of the Totally for Troops Board of Directors, I thank you for your unflinching support.

While I'm on the subject of the Board, I would like to welcome the newest member, Ms Kerri Morey. She, just like the other members, is a cardist extraordinaire. Kerri has been a strong supporter of Totally for Troops as well as a no-nonsense, hands-on gal. She takes on this challenge with great enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of humor, characteristics that are much-needed when making greeting cards! Welcome, Kerri!

Finally, I ask you to please think fondly of our deployed men and women and their families.
~Dianna~

Designs and Themes

You can never go wrong with simplicity and good taste. As we make cards for our Troops, please remember that most of them are being selected by young men and women. Often we design cards according to *our* personal tastes. Stop and ask yourself, would a young soldier pick a card like mine if he/she were shopping for a birthday, miss you, thank you, or special card? Is my design simple yet tasteful?

Jingle Bells? ALREADY ????

Our supply of general themed cards is very good at present. We really need Christmas/holiday cards. You're right! It's early, but shipping deadlines to our units this year is also early (Oct 3).



Unit Honor Roll

864th Engineer Battalion (*second time*)
1-4th Cavalry Squadron
7-10th Cavalry Squadron
14th Engineer Battalion
86th Combat Support Hospital
62nd Engineer Battalion
571st Engineers (Sapper)
610th Engineer Support Company
539th Transportation Company
1-24th Infantry Battalion
25th BSB
10th Combat Support Hospital
877th Engineer Battalion (Alabama)
1-147 Artillery Battalion (S. Dakota)
Task Force Med Operation
5/3 Field Artillery
201st BfSB/109TH MI BN/502d MI BN
6/8 CAV * 547th ASMC * 814TH MRBC
SOFT-SE * 360th Trans Co. * 6/4 CAV * TF Eagle Lift

Our Uber-achievers 😊

Very special thank-you's to the following cardmakers for their creativity and generosity: **Patti P. and Lori G. (IN); Donna E, Toni C., Beth C., and Kathie J. (GA); JoAnn C. , Gloria F. and Jane L. (PA); Cindy S. (VA); Millie K. (NV); Mary D. (IL); Gail W (OH); Barbara N. (WI); Denise L. (WVA); Margie C. (KY); Ela C. and Cindy Y. (CA); Linda G. (AZ); Janell G. (LA); Barb D. and Candy C. (WA).**

Comments from our Units

1SG C. from Afghanistan writes:

"I just wanted to let you know we received your box of cards yesterday, Thanks you so much for your support, we appreciate your time and effort that goes into each and every box you send. These cards are great, I know I found a few and will send them out today, You make it so easy for Soldiers to stay in touch and I know the person receiving the card loves it even more, Thanks for all your time and thanks so much for all the cards that arrived to share with everyone. Appreciate your help."

1Lt W. from Afghanistan writes:

"I read about your program and think it would be amazing for my soldiers to have. I know they will greatly appreciate your cards, because being out here we don't have access to much of anything. I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you very much for your dedicated support."

Gobble, Gobble---ALREADY???

Because we will be mailing Christmas/holiday Cards in early, early October, we can also include some Thanksgiving cards in each box. So, please feel free to use your creativity on Thanksgiving cards as well. 😊

Cardmaking Tips

This section is being included for the benefit of all cardmakers (including myself).

Reviewing these guidelines is always a good practice. Only the highest quality greeting cards are sent to our Troops.

--Only A2 size. No square cards.

--Please do NOT use any metal embellishments such as brads, decorative eyelets, clips, flowers, or adornments or plastic, metal, or wooden buttons.

--Make sure the top or side fold of your cards is clean and crisp. Use a bone folder and go over your fold. It takes a second or two more but makes a world of difference.

--Please make sure inks, paints, stamping, and glue are completely dry. I'm seeing lots of smudged stamping and coloring on otherwise beautiful cards.

--Be neat and tidy with glues and adhesives. No glue seeping from underneath ribbon and paper.

--Take time to cut cardstock, papers, and embellishments carefully and accurately. Attention to detail is important.

--If your card is made of any color other than white, ivory, or light pastel cardstock, please, please, PLEASE include a white paper insert. This can be made from inexpensive copier paper and should be cut a hair smaller than the card itself and then secured to either the interior left or interior top of the card with a tiny bit of adhesive.

--Please restrict sentiments to the OUTSIDE FRONT of the card. Nothing on the inside.

--Make sure ribbon ends are either finished or neatly tucked under. Fraying is a problem.

--Don't be afraid to have someone else critique your cards as a quality check.

--The simpler the design, the better.

Store-bought greeting cards are not being accepted at this time. Our current supply has outgrown our storage capacity. Thanks!

If you have any thoughts, suggestions, questions, or events you would like included in *the Cardist*, please e-mail information to Dianna at www.totally4troops.org. Click on her link and type away! We are very interested in knowing what you are doing in your area to support Totally for Troops. So, please let us know.