

PUTNAM VETERAN'S REGISTER

An E-mail Newsletter of the Putnam County Office of Veterans Services

USPS Recommends Christmas Mailing Dates for Deployed Troops



The United States Postal Service has released its recommended dates for sending Christmas mail to troops overseas, according to a report by the American Foreign Press Service.

First class and priority mail for service members stationed in Afghanistan must be postmarked by Dec. 4 to arrive by Christmas. For parcel airlift mail, the deadline is Dec. 1, and space-available mail must be sent by Nov. 21. Parcel post mail to all military overseas locations should be shipped by Nov. 13.

USPS officials remind those sending packages overseas to use strong boxes without writing, wrapping paper, or string on the outside, pack contents tightly and store perishables in leak proof containers, and print their return address and the service members name without rank, followed by the unit and APO or FPO delivery address on one side of the package.



Get the Address Right

Use the service member's full name

All mail must be addressed to someone specific; addressing mail to "Any Service Member" is no longer permitted.

Include the unit and APO/FPO/DPO (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address with the nine-digit ZIP Code™ (if one is assigned).

SSGT Kevin Taylor
Unit 2050 Box 4190
APO AP 96278-2050
SGT Robert Smith
PSC 802 Box 74
APO AE 09499-0074
Seaman Joseph Doe
USCGC Hamilton
FPO AP 96667-3931
SGT Jane Doe
CMR 1250
APO AA 09045-1000

Before you send a letter or package to one of our troops overseas, make sure you're aware of certain restrictions. Every country has customs regulations regarding incoming mail.

Although there are specific restrictions for each five-digit Military Post Office ZIP Code™ (APO/FPO/DPO), generally, the following are prohibited in the region of Operation Iraqi Freedom:

- **Obscene articles** (prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc).
- **Any matter depicting nude or seminude persons**, pornographic or sexual items, or non-authorized political materials.
- **Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith.** Items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible.
- **Pork or pork by-products.**

To make sure package contents arrive in good shape, take into consideration:

- **Extreme Temperatures:** Desert temperatures typically exceed 100 degrees, this can damage delicate goods e.g. electronics.



There are few words I can use to emphasize how important receiving packages and letters are to the troops. While the advent of the internet and almost instant communication may seem to have mitigated the importance of actual mail nothing could be further from the truth. Please consider a member of the military for a holiday package.

Karl