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Supporting Our Troops

by **Kim Tenure**

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It seems like everyone -- even people who do not support the war -- claim to support our troops. But how many actually do something to show their support? Now there's an easy way for each of us to do so.

Gone are the days when troops had to wait for weeks or months for letters from home. For the troops in many areas in Iraq and Afghanistan, e-mails from home are available often, in some areas even daily. But not all of the troops get a lot of them, and -- more particularly -- some hear from people they don't know about what Americans think of what they're doing.

But what if they did? What if they didn't have to determine what America thinks from the anti-war press alone? Captain Chuck Nash, former Naval Aviator, spoke of the impact that these emails can have on the soldiers, "kids" he called them, overseas. "They need to know that someone back home understands they're out there."

Recently, Captain Nash received an email urging Americans to show their support for one Marine Corps unit in Iraq. Captain Nash, whose long navy career separated him from his family for long periods, spoke of the days when instantly able to talk to your family and loved ones back home was just a luxury; now, "soldiers at one end of the internet pipeline can communicate in real time or near real time." This is a great boost to the morale of the troops. Captain Nash recounted times when he was on the end of a two-week mail cycle and it could take 30 days to receive a letter back from home. The internet has

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transcended the time difference, since it is only about an eight-hour time difference in Iraq and 8 ½ hour difference in Afghanistan.



Imagine being overseas and knowing that while your family and some in your home town may be worried about you, the constant bleat of the liberal showed only car bombings, protests and reported the political strife within Iraq? What if you heard a parade of presidential wannabes talking about how we need to pull the troops out? As Captain Nash said, it's a slap on the face to the soldiers that are risking their lives and have watched their friends die just to pull out now. Many of them just want to finish the job.

This is where the wonders of the internet come in. One Marine regimental commander is asking for emails for his troops: RCT-6lettersfromh@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil. Just a four or five sentence email telling a soldier that they are making a difference and you support them as an American can mean the world to them.

There are many other ways ordinary citizens can show support for soldiers abroad: anysoldier.com and americasupportsyou.mil are both websites that can show you how to gather and send supplies or letters to troops. But this is even easier, and goes right to the young folks in the middle of the fight.

The email does not have to take long -- about two minutes out of your day could mean a lot to a Marine who does not have a lot a family and not receiving that much mail. When you are serving your country, the little things can mean the world. Let's not let our troops think we believe all that the media says. Email these soldiers and tell them how much you appreciate all that they give for us. All HUMAN EVENTS readers should let these troops know that we are behind them and support what they do. Get those e-mails out, folks.

Kim Tenure is an intern at HUMAN EVENTS and going into her senior year at Gettysburg College, in Pennsylvania, where she is a double major in Political Science and History. She has served as editor in chief of www.gburgforum.com for two years. She is originally from New York.



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