

## Special Thanks from the 455th CASF

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7 February 2010

Operation First Response  
Ms. Peggy Baker  
20037 Dove Hill Rd.  
Culpeper, VA 22701

Dear Ms. Peggy Baker,

On behalf of the 455<sup>th</sup> CASF currently deployed to Bagram Airfield, here in Bagram, Afghanistan, I just want to express our sincere gratitude for the generous donation we recently received from you! Your First Response Backpacks are a fantastic idea! I work in an area called the CASF, or Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. We are responsible for the reception of all patients needing higher levels of medical care for the entire theater of Afghanistan. Wounded troops are sent here from the outlying areas as part of the rapid escalation of care for those wounded in combat. However our primary mission and responsibility is to ensure these heroes get started on their journeys home. The first stop on that journey for these soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines is Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. We plan, and coordinate at least five flights out to Germany a week ensuring excellent medical care is continued from the ground here in Bagram to the air while in transport. We prepare their records, and ready their needed medications, equipment and supplies for the eight hour trip. We then lift every litter, and bring every patient out to the aircraft they will start their long road to recovery on.

Due to the nature of many patients' injuries and how they are brought here for care, many arrive with very few personal belongings. We have developed a "CASF General Store" of sorts; a place for patients to go "shopping" for whatever they may need during their short stays here. Your Operation First Response Backpacks are a one-stop shop in ways and make it beyond easy for us to provide our patients with everything they could possibly need while here. Many have no belongings here with them at all, so the backpack gives them something of value to travel with, something new to call their own. Our wounded soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines are usually stunned to see the generosity of those back home, and how much they want to aid in their recovery and trip back home. It has really helped many of our med-tech and nursing staff here also to have something of value to give our patients for their journey when otherwise we can't provide them with very much.

Your donation has already touched quite a few wounded soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines who have come through as patients since your backpacks arrived! Knowing there are patriotic Americans back home thinking of them and supporting them does more for their recovery than you know! We cannot thank you enough for your support of our mission, but most importantly you support of our wounded heroes we are honored to care for!

Sincerely,



Elise LaCroix, 1LT, Army Nurse Corps  
455<sup>th</sup> CASF, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."

*Author Unknown*