



## Excerpts from thank you notes

- No one was expecting the Girl Scout cookies that came across the cargo rig during our last replenishment at sea. You should have seen the look of excitement on the faces of every Marine and Sailor. A sight to behold! Thank you for keeping our spirits high with memories of home — CDR J.K. Reilley, USN; Commanding Officer, USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19)
- Two things Marines overseas look forward to are letters from family and Girl Scout cookies. So believe me when I say we are thankful for your support and thoughtfulness. — SGT J.T. Drake, USMC; U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia
- Thank you all so much for the Girl Scout cookies. They were always a boost to our unit's morale, and the postcard from Troop 1776 brightened our office in Afghanistan! – CDR Don Meserve, USN, Naval Forces Central Command Training and Readiness
- Grown men *do* cry. The Thin Mint cookies brought back memories of home. With all our hearts, thank you for thinking of us. — Deanna Moore, Supply Officer, USNS *PATHFINDER* (T-AGS-60)
- Thank you for your continued support and appreciation for the Submarine Force. Spending time halfway around the world and hundreds of feet below the surface certainly made us miss the small comforts of home. Everyone from the most junior sailor all the way up the chain of command enjoyed a sweet “Taste of Home.” — CAPT D.H. Kuhlmann III, USN; USS *MICHIGAN*
- On behalf of the USS *PATRIOT* MCM 7 I would like to thank you for donating your delicious cookies and the handmade cards. Every crew member on board was thrilled when the announcement of, “Girl Scout Cookies are now available on the mess decks” went out across the announcing system. Being forward deployed in Sasebo, Japan we are always out at sea. When we return to home port and are told that Thin Mints and other varieties of cookies are waiting for us it lifts the moral exponentially. — LTJG Bradley Feige, USN; USS *Patriot* (MCM7)
- I am happy to report to you that your mission was accomplished—the warm reminders from home brightened our days. — CMC Wayne Smith, USN; Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan
- We are currently on deployment, far away from home and those we love. Your thoughtful gift of our favorite cookies makes us feel a little closer to home. We are proud to serve our country and grateful that girls like you serve your community through Girl Scouts. — CDR Robert Koonce, USN; Commanding Officer, USS *Key West*
- While all of us in uniform may not be directly in harm's way, we are separated from friends, family and Americana. The cookies are a great reminder of home. Your generosity truly makes a difference. — CAPT Scott Martin, USMC; Transportation Officer, Fleet Air Western Pacific (Japan)

- Iraq isn't exactly a paradise, but the cookies help. You just can't get these at the local market! — *TSGT Christian Best, USAF, Sather AB, Iraq*
- Your Tagalongs are the greatest thing since sliced bread and cell phones! You have lifted my spirits. Sending you a million hugs to share.—*AWS (1) Trevor Godwin, USN; Fleet and Family Support Center, Japan*
- We have just received a shipment of Girl Scout Cookies out here in Djibouti (Horn of Africa). We are very thankful.— *PO3 Tiffany Woodruff, U.S. Central Command*
- “Operation Thin Mint” was a resounding success here in Yokosuka, Japan. I can’t thank you enough for the incredible support, hard work and dedication demonstrated by Girls Scouts San Diego. As always, the cookies were very good, but just as important were the notes and letters included in the shipment. We greatly appreciated the morale booster and the taste of home. — *CAPT Jesús Cantú, USN; N4 ACOS for Logistics; Commander, 7th Fleet*
- Thank you for thinking of us in Afghanistan. The Girl Scout Cookies were a totally unexpected gift from your council. They are very special to me because of the great memories they generate. I was a Girl Scout for 12 years, and a leader for 2 years, and my daughter back home in Georgia is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award. — *COL Rosemary Carter, USA; Camp Eggers, Kabul*
- My daughter is in Girl Scouts and I always try to help them out, so I like that they’re helping us out, too.— *BMC (SW/AW) Effrin Bolton, USN; USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)*
- Your letters of encouragement were really touching. I taught kindergartners before joining the military, so seeing the letters gave me a warm sense of innocence I haven’t felt in a long time. We got your cookies when we had been out in the field for about 2 weeks. We (infantry) especially loved them because usually we eat MREs (the small rations we take with us out in missions). — *PFC Vance Miller, First Platoon, Bravo Company, Korea*
- Hafa adai! I am currently on a scheduled six-month WESTPAC deployment onboard USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) operating in the vast ocean of the Pacific. Thank you for the generous Girl Scout cookie donations we recently received. The added touch of the drawing included hits home and makes individuals like me how appreciated we are back home.— *F. E. Johnson, USN; PS1(AW/SW), USN; Strike Fighter Squadron TWO FIVE*
- It was a special treat to be greeted on the pier in Yokosuka, Japan by Girl Scout Cookies. This generous gift meant a lot to the crew. — *H.A. Eystad, USCG, USCGC Boutwell (WHEC-719)*
- I appreciate someone remembering that we’re out here doing something for our country.— *A03 Garrick Antillon, USN; USS Nimitz (CVN 68)*
- Thank you for the support. It’s what makes all the difference in our lives and makes the jobs we do all worth it. Keep up the good work, Girl Scouts. Semper Fidelis! — *SGT Samuel Garcia, USMC, (Drill Instructor)*
- There’s nothing better than a little “Taste of Home” to lift the spirits. It brings back memories from when I used to sell Girl Scout cookies. Thank you again for thinking of us. It really means a lot! — *MA3 Sarah DeCarlo, USN, USS Frank Case (AS-10)*
- Thank you for the wonderful support you've shown us by supplying us with so many delicious Girl Scout cookies. Down where we all eat, there's an entire wall covered with your colorful and uplifting letters of thanks. We left San Diego just before Memorial Day and we should be back just in time for Thanksgiving. Your cookies are a much-needed and tasty reminder of home— *AT1(AW) Walter M. Young, USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)*
- Hello from sunny Diego Garcia. I wanted to write to thank you all very much for sending us all of the cookies this year. Being so far from home, this was a very welcome gift, as I always look forward to getting Girl Scout cookies each year. Your cards as well were fantastic and are hanging up all over our work centers.— *ITC(SW/AW) Edward L. Lee, USN; NCTSFE DET, Diego Garcia*

- Please pass on our gratitude and thanks for the efforts of all involved to bring joy and smiles to my sailors. We thank you and everyone involved in the process. It's the smallest gestures that bring the best results. I've attached some photos to show how your donations can brighten the often rigorous routine of our lives out here on deployment. Thanks again for brightening our day! — *CMDCM(SW/SS/DV) Ron Noble, USN; USS RENTZ (FFG-46)*
- We spend a lot of time away from home and something like delicious cookies goes a long way in making the days pass by a little easier. We also received some great pictures drawn by Girl Scouts. I am looking at one right now drawn by someone by the name of Abby. The colors and picture are great! — *LT Jason B. Osborne, USN; Electronics Officer, USS RENTZ (FFG-46)*
- I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the Girl Scouts and Girl Scout directors, leaders, and volunteers for sending each of my Soldiers a box of cookies. What a morale booster! Thank you for keeping our Soldiers in your thoughts. — *First Sergeant Kerry Wood, USA; Camp Humphreys, Korea*
- Operation Thin Mint brings back memories of my younger days as a Girl Scout. The program is a huge morale booster! — *YN2 Kellie Grande, USN; Yokosuka, Japan*
- I am serving in the Army at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, and recently received a free box of Girl Scout cookies from you. Your kind gesture really brightened my day, and it brought a little bit of America here to South Korea. — *SPC Lauren Carothers, USA (A former Girl Scout)*
- I just want to say thank you for the Operation Thin Mint cookies. I'm stationed here at Kunsan Air Base, ROK, Korea with the Rocky Mountain Coalition. We received the cookies just a few days ago and they were devoured very quickly. Please pass on our gratitude to all involved. — *MSgt Phil Apodaca, USAF*
- The boxes of cookies brought smiles to a lot of faces and let us know that America's future leaders are watching out for us. We are happy to know you care. God bless you. — *BMC(sw) Andreas L. Carver, USN*
- Hello to everyone. On behalf of my fellow soldiers and civilians in Korea, thank you for the donation of the Girl Scout Cookies. It's nice to have some good old-fashioned Girl Scout cookies while stationed overseas. We miss a lot of the American things while being over here. We enjoyed your thank you cards. Your artwork was beautiful. — *SGT Donna Marsh, USA; Seoul, Korea*
- From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU. I speak on behalf of numerous sailors in saying we appreciate your support and hope you continue to do so. Because a taste of home always brings a tear to my eyes, especially to know that people like you think of people like us. May God bless you, keep us in your prayers. — *CTA2(SW) Tony R. Sanchious, USN; USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)*
- We got your shipment of cookies. They were OUTSTANDING!!!! Unfortunately, I enjoyed them much more than going to the gym. I am a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (Reinforced) on a 6-month deployment. Together we are about 4,000 Marines and Sailors strong embarked on 3 ships. I'm on the *USS Peleliu*. We have been to Hawaii, Australia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Iraq.
- I took a photo holding up a thank you sign. I put it in a collage of photos that I sent out to my family and friends. I've attached it for you so you can see the photo of me with my box of Do-Si-Dos (my FAVORITE!!!) as well as other pictures from our time in Kuwait.
- I will be returning to Camp Pendleton in August. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any assistance in working on your Aviation Merit badges! Thank you again and please share my thanks with the Girl Scouts! — *Capt Beth A. Fisher, USMC (Girl Scout 1983-1987)*
- Thank you on behalf of the entire medical department aboard *USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)*. We received your gift just before heading out to sea, and believe me the taste of home is deeply appreciated. I know it is hard to tell by the photo, but the two cards we received in medical were from Elizabeth and Naomi. It is nice to know that our friends and family back home support what we

do on the other side of the ocean. Thank you so very much for your support. — *HMCS(SS/FMF) David A. Peterson Jr., USN, USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), Medical Department Division Officer*

- Good morning from the Land of the Orient of Yokosuka Naval Base Japan! We send our thanks for the letters and cookies. It really meant a lot for our single sailors, because it makes them feel very important and know that serving their country in the Navy has a purpose in life: to serve and protect. Your relentless love and support will provide our sailors the strength they need to serve our country. — *ENC (CFAY) Orlando Bitanga & Crew of Port Operations; Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan*
- Thank you for donating the cookies to our soldiers stationed in South Korea. They will be served during lunch and dinner hours at various dining facilities. — *WO1 Dominique Yuquimpo, Fires BDE Food Advisor*
- The outstanding support received from your organization is overpowering and continues to help remind not just our soldiers but all U.S. forces, whether here in Korea or some other country, that America does support them and their efforts. The thank you cards we received were passed out to all soldiers and many have been posted up on the unit bulletin boards.
- Thank you for taking time out of your busy days to remember the U.S. service men and women serving at home and abroad. — *Command Sergeant Major Larry D. Farmer, USA; South Korea*
- Please pass along our thanks from the 607<sup>th</sup> Combat Operations Squadron here at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea! I got to eat some of my favorites—Tagalongs. God bless the U.S.A and Girl Scouts! — *CDR Mike Magee, USAF, OIC RAIDER USFK*
- Thank you for taking care of us here in the Middle East. Your generosity and kindness mean so much to us. — *JOC Daniel F. Sanford, USN, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Bahrain*
- I can't tell you how elated all of our crew members and officers were to arrive in port (Bahrain) and receive the wonderful cookies. As great as the cookies taste, however, nothing could beat these wonderful pictures we received from the children . . . You could hardly know how happy this has made us all. — *(2<sup>nd</sup> officer) Bill Bentley, USN; USNS INVINCIBLE*
- I just wanted to say thank you so much for the cookies. It is awesome that you take the time and energy to send them and we definitely appreciate it! — *Kathy Robertson, USAF; Osan Air Base (Korea)*
- I'm a 20-year old soldier currently deployed to the far regions of Afghanistan . . . When we received a shipment of your Operation Thin Mint cookies, suddenly the bad times here weren't so bad. When I'm eating them I feel like I'm home again. — *SPC Jermaine Webb, USA; Afghanistan*
- Thank you very much. We are a communication squadron assign here in Baghdad. Our airmen love them. We thank you for supporting us here. — *MSgt Gamboa, USA*
- The cookies taste great and the cards sent with them really personalized everything. A great morale booster! — *ENS Gina M. Shaw, SC, USN (Diego Garcia)*
- Everyone has a smile on their face because of the cookies! — *STS2(SS) Benhamin Dukleth, USN (CENTCOM Iraq)*

**Find photos and FAQs about Operation Thin Mint® at [www.sdgirlscouts.org/otm](http://www.sdgirlscouts.org/otm).**

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