



# Biggs Chapter North San Diego County H.O.G.

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## EMAIL FROM THE MILITARY – April to June

Dear Biggs HOG Members,

I want to thank you very much for the packages you have sent to my Marines and me. It is so nice to get a little taste of home and realize that good people like yourselves think of us enough to take time from their day to send a little something our way. My Marines and I are doing well. We are stationed on Al Taqaddum Airbase, Iraq. Al Taqaddum (we call it TQ) is located just south west of Fallujah, when looking on a map. The base butts right up against Lake Habbaniyah.

I am the Avionics Division Officer and we are part of the Maintenance Department for HMLA-169, the World Famous Vipers. My Division works on all the electrical, communications and navigations systems on the AH-1W Cobra and UH-1N Huey aircraft our squadron flies. My Marines and I work 12 hour shifts, 7 days a week for the 7 months that we are out here in Iraq. The days are long, but there's plenty of work which makes the time go by faster.

Fortunately, we are not required to leave the base, therefore we are relatively safe and secure. The only hardships we endure are dealing with the heat, occasional sand storms, long hours and separation from family and friends. In the past, the base would receive mortar and rocket fire, but TQ has not experienced any of this for the past 10 months, a testament to the improved conditions here in Iraq. Some other parts of the country have experienced increased violence in the past couple weeks, but it has not reached out to where we are yet. The living conditions aren't too bad here. Where they used to live in tents on this base, we now live in 10 x 20 foot trailer looking units we call "Cans". Each can houses two Marines and has a locking door and air conditioner/heating unit. There is a set of bunk beds and two wall lockers in each unit as well. This makes for a clean and safe space to sleep and store your gear.

The weather here has varied from a little bit of snow this past winter, to temperatures around 105 in the past few days. In the summer time, the temperatures can get up to 140. I am definitely glad we are leaving by mid May. I have attached a picture of some of my Marines and me here in Iraq.

Again, I want to thank you all for the packages. Everyone ride safe, and I hope to see you on the road soon.

Sincerely,  
CWO3 M.R.\_\_\_\_\_  
HMLA-169 Avionics Officer

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Thank you very much for the care package. The goodies were enjoyed by everyone in my shop. The hygiene items that were sent were also put to good use. Thank you also for the e-mail sent with the motivating pictures of the American pride mural on the boulder. I hope everything is going well for you all back in California. How has the weather been there? It continues to get hotter here. It has already broken a couple of record high temperatures over here. How much riding have you all been doing there lately? I sure am looking forward to coming back and riding. Well, not much else is going on here. Talk to ya later.

Take care and God bless,  
Ryan

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Biggs Chapter,

First, I want to thank all of you for your support and the packages you have sent to us. It is a great feeling to receive something from home knowing that people still care what we are doing. We have been here almost 3 months and have definitely been busy. We have over 50 rescues in that short time frame. I myself will be headed home in about 3 weeks. Thank you again for all of your support.

TSgt Ed D  
305 ERQS

### PHOTOS FROM THE FRONT



Ed D, and his combat SAR team, loved his care package!



CW03 M.R. and his marines.