

## Milpitas Care Packages Give U.S. Soldiers a Piece of Home

Anyone who travels far from home finds it's the little things they miss most, and when you're a U.S. Marine serving in Iraq those things can be especially hard to find. Fortunately for one Marine helicopter unit, employees at the Avnet Milpitas, Calif., branches of Avnet Electronics Marketing and Avnet Memec sent many of those items in weekly care packages.

Once they learned a San Diego employee's husband had been deployed, they began sending boxes full of items on a list he and his unit said they missed – including chocolate, cookies, candy, trail mix, coffee and tea as well as soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, washcloths and toilet paper – lots of toilet paper.

"I got the feeling that the TP offered up in the military is not very desirable," says Jan Holt, the sales and marketing representative (SMR) who took many of the boxes to the post office for shipping. "Another request that surprised me was for a special kind of black work sock, but one of the SMRs here has a dad who was in the military and he went down to the local PX and got us a bunch to send over. It was great to know people cared so much and went out of their way to bring things in to support the troops."

Milpitas sent more than 20 boxes before the unit returned home in November. Even though they are no longer sending boxes, the office has a memento of its efforts – a U.S. flag flown in Iraq and a map showing where it was flown.

"We had the flag and map on a file cabinet that is squarely visible when you walk into the building on the SMR side but took them down to get them framed," says Jan. "We were honored to receive a wonderful thank you from the Marines, but more than anything it was a wonderful way to build rapport with fellow employees."

