

MAILING CHECKLIST FOR OVERSEES MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

- You'll need to fill out customs forms to ship your care package. Ask a postal service employee or search online to learn more about these forms. (Because you'll have to fill out a customs form, make sure you keep a list of what's in your box before you tape it shut.)
- Check on size and weight restrictions for packages. Your best option may be to pick up free Priority Mail boxes at your post office. Use the #4 or #7 size box.
- Enclose a card listing the contents of the package along with the recipient's name/address and your name. Then if the package breaks open during shipping and the contents scatter, mail handlers will know what to repack.
- Place items that could spill or leak in heavy plastic zipper-lock bags such as reusable freezer bags.
- Use packing materials that have a second life. Cushion fragile items with small packages of tissues, copies of the local newspaper, plastic zipper-lock bags filled with popped popcorn, small stuffed toys (for your service member to share with local children), or anything else your service member can reuse. Some families fill the empty spaces in their boxes with Jolly Ranchers.
- Write out the complete address including your service member's full name (with or without rank or rating), unit and APO/FPO (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address. Be sure you have the unit name, including the battalion, ship, squadron, platoon, etc., with the nine-digit ZIP code, if one is assigned.
- Check with your Key Volunteer, Ombudsman, or command family support/readiness group point of contact for details about restricted items, especially if your military member is in the Middle East or Persian Gulf.*

*Visit this website for a partial list of prohibited items: <https://www.liveabout.com/prohibited-care-package-contents-2357162>

List Courtesy of:

