

OSOTIL (Operations Support our Troops) is critically low on items to send to our troops. Over the past six years Operation Support Our Troops - Illinois has served as the link between the citizen and the military person by collecting items from the community, packaging them into "care packages", and mailing them off to troops serving in harm's way. Each 25 pound package contains a wide variety of snacks, toiletries, books, treats, first aid items, etc. While each box is addressed to an individual military person (whose name is submitted through our website), there is enough to share with approximately 10 people. Each box also contains hand written letters from the community as well. In total, OSOTIL has sent over 220 tons of these packages – one 25 pound box at a time! We hear over and over in letters and in person from our troops that say "you have no idea what it meant to know that someone cared about me - someone I didn't even know took the time and effort to think about me".

We know that American citizens want to support our military, and we provide a vehicle for them to do this by collecting some of the most requested items and bringing them to us along with letters of support. However, with the events of the past months and the shaky economy that has developed, people have their minds on other things. Our troops, however, continue to serve regardless of political or economic changes here at home. They need us to continue to support them, but for the first time in our six years, our ability to do that is threatened by a lack of collections.

MOST REQUESTED ITEMS:

Please note sizes on our list, no glass please and check for expiration dates before donating to collection. Also letters of support to the troops would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

1. Wipes (Unscented)
2. Foot powder (20 oz or less)
3. Fruit snacks (individual bags)
4. Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
5. Coffee singles
6. Slim jims
7. Canned fruit (20 oz. or less)