



# POSTAL NEWS

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## Postal Service Delivers Holiday Cheer to Service Members Worldwide

*Recommended Mailing Dates for APO/FPO/DPO Destinations*

WASHINGTON — Ensuring care packages arrive in time for the holiday season is a priority for friends and family members of military personnel serving around the world. To help get packages on their way, the U.S. Postal Service offers a discount on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate Box at a price of \$13.45. The price includes a \$2 per box discount for military mail being sent to APO/FPO/DPO (Air/Army Post Office, Fleet Post Office, Diplomatic Post Office) destinations worldwide.

In addition to a lower cost per package customers can be assured that shipping with the Postal Service will provide reliable, trusted and secure delivery to military personnel stationed anywhere in the world.

Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available at no cost at local Post Offices, or can be ordered online at [shop.usps.com](http://shop.usps.com). Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online anytime using [Click-N-Ship](#).

To ensure timely delivery of holiday wishes by Dec. 25, cards and packages to military APO/FPO/DPO address overseas should be sent no later than the mailing dates listed below.

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail Military Service (EMM)	First-Class Mail Letters/Cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL)	Space Available Mail (SAM)	Parcel Post
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec. 17	Dec. 10	Dec. 10	Dec. 3	Nov. 26	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec. 3	Dec. 3	Nov. 30	Nov. 26	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec. 17	Dec. 10	Dec. 10	Dec. 3	Nov. 26	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AA ZIP 340	Dec. 17	Dec. 10	Dec. 10	Dec. 3	Nov. 26	Nov. 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec. 17	Dec. 10	Dec. 10	Dec. 3	Nov. 26	Nov. 13

Mailing date cart footnotes:

EMM – Available at select military/diplomatic Post Offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to an APO/FPO/DPO address.

PAL – Provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight for 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

SAM – Parcels are paid at Parcel Post prices with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space available basis.

The recommended last day to mail the most economical postage to overseas military destinations, including Iraq and Afghanistan, is Nov. 13. Mail addressed to military Post Offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO/FPO/DPO addresses generally require customs forms.

### **Support Our Troops by Sending Care Packages**

With Priority Mail service supplies as the packaging of choice for families preparing care packages for service members overseas, the Postal Service created a free "Military Care Kit" based on the items most frequently requested by military families.

The kit contains:

- Two Priority Mail APO/FPO Flat Rate Boxes.
- Two Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate Boxes.
- Priority Mail tape.
- Priority Mail address labels.
- Appropriate customs forms.
- To order the kit, call 800-610-8734.
- Guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops can be found at [www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm](http://www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm)
- To order Flat Rate boxes featuring the "America Supports You" logo go to [store.usps.com](http://store.usps.com).

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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**Please Note:** For broadcast quality video and audio, photo stills and other media resources, visit the USPS Newsroom at <http://about.usps.com/news/welcome.htm>.

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation — 151 million residences, businesses and Post Office™ Boxes. The Postal Service™ receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, *usps.com*®, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$65 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 35th in the 2011 Fortune 500. In 2011, Oxford Strategic Consulting ranked the U.S. Postal Service number one in overall service performance of the posts in the top 20 wealthiest nations in the world. *Black Enterprise* and *Hispanic Business* magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for six years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

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