

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Dear Kevin, Janis, and Amy:

On behalf of the Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne), I want to express our gratitude to you for the dumbbell sets and the cost of shipping them to Kuwait. My battalion will receive about half of the sets you donated and shipped.

While the Army takes good care of us and provides high quality fitness facilities on our larger bases, our “front line” Infantry troops spend most of their fifteen month tour living and working out of small combat outposts. (Think something the size of a small Italian villa, but with much less charm!) At best, these outposts have partial sets of rusted and broken weights – often in a weight scale unrecognizable to American kids.

Some have compared the modern US Soldier to professional athletes. In many ways that is true. It is certainly true that our Paratroopers take fitness very seriously. It is a part of their character and lifestyle, not merely a part of their job. I tell you that because I want you to be confident that the dumbbell sets will be used daily. And at the end of our fifteen months, we will leave them behind for the next group of professional Soldiers to use. I am sure that within about twenty-four months every dumbbell will be nearly worn and rusted through from overuse and sweat.

Again, thanks. I expect that it will take about 30-45 days for the weights to arrive once they hit Kuwait. We will be sure to take “action photos” and send those along as another small way of saying, “Thank you!”

- Paul Edgar

MAJ Paul Edgar

Battalion Executive Officer

3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne)