



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Members of Imperial's VFW Post 4688 and its Auxiliary, along with ABATE Dist. 12 members and the Eagles Auxiliary, have donated \$250 to a special project for soldiers in Afghanistan.

The organizations learned of the project to provide candy for Christmas stockings to some 21,000-plus soldiers assigned to Bagram Airfield, and wanted to take part, said VFW Commander P.J. Pajerski.

Kimberlee Keller, who is president of the Top 3 organization at Bagram, sent a letter to VFW chapters in the U.S., making the request. Top 3 is an enlisted organization there for E7 to E9 ranks, and assists in mentoring new soldiers and boosting morale.

She wrote, "About a week ago, I had a chocolate craving with no chocolate to be had. It started me thinking, I can't be the only one that misses chocolate."

The Top 3 organization raises money to give the soldiers gift bags during the Christmas season, but does not have the funds to buy candy, she said in the letter.

She said it was her hope that VFW chapters in the U.S. consider donating cases of assorted Christmas chocolate, candy bar packs, etc. "to help us spread a little cheer."

She added, "Being away from home is very difficult, even more so for the holidays. This small token would mean so much."

It was also noted in Keller's letter that Hallmark has donated 58,000 Christmas cards, which will be distributed to the troops this week. The cards will be for soldiers to send home to their family and friends in time for Christmas.