



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
CAMP BEAUREGARD
PINEVILLE, LA 71360

December 15, 2005

Office of Family Programs

Phil Randazzo
www.DefendingFreedom.net
9505 Hillwood Drive #100
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Dear Mr. Randazzo,

On behalf of the families of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Louisiana National Guard, we thank you for the donation of backpacks, school supplies and Defending Freedom bracelets. The 2500 backpacks, which were sent for the children of our Servicemembers evacuated for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, helped the children begin to resume normal activities while dealing with the uncertainty of the aftermath of the storm. Many lost homes and prized possessions, others lost family members, others had to deal with not knowing when they could return home. Having a familiar item, such as a colorful backpack with fun supplies, helped them adapt and feel at home in a new school in a new city.

The children also enjoy wearing and showing off their camouflage bracelets to declare their proud affiliation with National Guard and U.S. military. We have a few left in the clothing and food locker we have set up. It is always a popular item for the kids to select.

Your kindness, generosity and patriotism are overwhelming and will not be forgotten. Our families who were affected by the storm have a long road to complete recovery, but knowing there are so many caring individuals in the country helps buoy spirits and keep eyes on the hopeful future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lida Eichenauer".

Lida O. Eichenauer
Major, Louisiana Army National Guard
State Family Program Director