

THE TENNESSEAN

Here's how to support troops in Kuwait

By LEON ALLIGOOD
Staff Writer

Public support for the troops in Kuwait is appreciated but do not send mail, according to the Department of Defense. The military is not equipped for an inundation of well wishes.

"We can't facilitate large quantities of mail at this time," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Polanco of Fort Campbell, where 20,000 soldiers have been activated for possible deployment to Kuwait.

In fact, because of the possibility of anthrax threats, letters addressed "To Any Soldier" are likely not to be delivered anywhere.

But there are other ways to let the troops know that you have not forgotten them. For instance:

- Send an e-mail greeting via www.OperationDearAbby.net.

- Sign a virtual thank-you card at www.defendamerica.com/nmam.html.

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, with corporate sponsors, provides prepaid calling cards to soldiers. See www.operationuplink.org.

Locally, the public is encouraged to support Fort Campbell troops in another way, by helping the soldiers' families.

Two efforts sponsored by the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce are Adopt-a-Unit, which is corporate support on a battalion or brigade level, and

Operation Eagle's Nest, an effort to raise \$1 million to be donated directly to the families of deployed soldiers.

"Our sole purpose is to make life a little more bearable for the families," said Kaili Harding of the Chamber of Commerce.

The corporate sponsors plan social events for their adopted unit.

Operation Eagle's Nest is designed to help families with financial needs. "It's coming along well. We have between \$50,000 and \$60,000 right now. This will go directly to the families," said Ed Rufo, who noted that the Hopkinsville-Christian County, Ky., Chamber of Commerce is a co-sponsor. Contributions can be sent to: Operation Eagle's Nest, P.O. Box 203, Fort Campbell, Ky. 42223.