



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 506<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
COMBINED TASK FORCE CURRAHEE  
FOB SALERNO, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09314



January 8, 2009

Commander  
506<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment  
4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Currahee)  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Currahee Gold Star Families,

The Army made a terrible mistake affecting our families who have lost loved ones. While trying to connect our Gold Star families and survivors with philanthropic organizations seeking to provide services and assistance, letters were inadvertently addressed "Dear John Doe" to our families who lost loved ones in the Global War on Terror.

Later today, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Casey, will begin signing 7,000 personalized letters of apology to the surviving family members of our fallen.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time an incident like this has happened. The Army Vice Chief of Staff, General Chiarelli, immediately suspended all mass mailings in order to fix organizational, administrative and contracting problems plaguing this critical mission area once and for all.

This is an embarrassing, shocking and extremely disappointing event for all Currahees and our families. We appreciate the sacrifices of all of our family members, particularly our Gold Star families who have sacrificed so much. We are confident that the Army will get this right, but we all accept responsibility for this terrible mistake.

I am deeply humbled by your sacrifices. Please accept my apology on behalf of the Army for this horrible mistake.

**CURRAHEE, STANDS ALONE!**

Sincerely,

John "Pete" Johnson  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding