



Mercury “Packing Party” Backgrounder

Origins of Event

- The Mercury Insurance packing party for U.S. servicemen and women stationed overseas started in 2008.
 - Assembled 80 packages the first year.
 - The event began in Mercury's Camarillo office and now occurs annually the week of 9/11 and has grown each year, with 120 boxes being assembled in 2014.
- Monica Nungaray and Melyssa Jones in Mercury's Camarillo office organized the employee-driven event.
- Nungaray's eldest son, SGT Raul Nungaray Jr., USMC, was serving in the Marines and stationed in Afghanistan at the time told his mother that many of the Marines didn't receive a piece of mail, let alone a care package.
- The Mercury care packages include toiletries, comfort goods, magazines, videos, card games, and other items donated by Mercury staff to make the time U.S. troops are away from home a little easier.
- More than 3,000 packages have been assembled at all of the packing parties and sent to servicemen and women serving overseas.

Mercury's Military Connections

- Mercury founder and board chair Mr. George Joseph is a World War II veteran.
 - Mr. Joseph flew 50 missions as a B-17 navigator over North Africa and Italy.
 - Mr. Joseph went to college on the G.I. Bill, earning two degrees at Harvard as a result.
- Mercury Claims Innovation Director, Stephanie Behnke, who participated at the last two packing parties served two years of active duty in the Army.
 - “When I got my papers to deploy to the first Gulf War, Mr. Joseph called me and said he would watch over my son while I was gone,” said Behnke. “It was unreal. I was a single mom deploying to a conflict and the owner tells me to focus on the job at hand and he'll take care of the rest.”
- Mercury employees many servicemen and women, supporting them with jobs when they're here in the U.S. and comeback from active duty.
- Kevin C. Kellum, Mercury claims specialist II and captain in the United States Army Reserve has served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom while being employed by the company.
- Hundreds of Mercury employees have volunteered to organize, assemble and ship the packages to servicemen and women.

Growing in Size with the San Diego Padres

- The first Padres-Mercury packing party took place in 2014, where 1,000 baseball-themed care packages were assembled on July 2.
- Mercury and the Padres are partnering for a second year in a row on April 29 to host the packing party.



- The Mercury, Padres baseball-themed care packages include a drawstring backpack, baseball cap, baseball, notecards, box of Cracker Jack, hygiene products and personalized letters from Mercury employees and S.D. Padres management.

The San Diego-Military-Padres Connection

- The military's annual economic impact on San Diego is \$35 billion.
- San Diego is home to the largest concentration of military forces in the country
- Padres players wear camouflage uniforms for every Sunday home game, each of which features a dedicated Salute to the Military.

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