

Hobbs, Inc., sends a little bit of home to Marines on duty in the Middle East

While Americans go about their daily routines at home, thousands of service men and women are serving in Iraq.

Hobbs, Inc., a 50-year-old New Canaan-based, home building firm, is taking action to recognize the contributions of these men and women, and provide some of the comforts of home to those serving overseas.

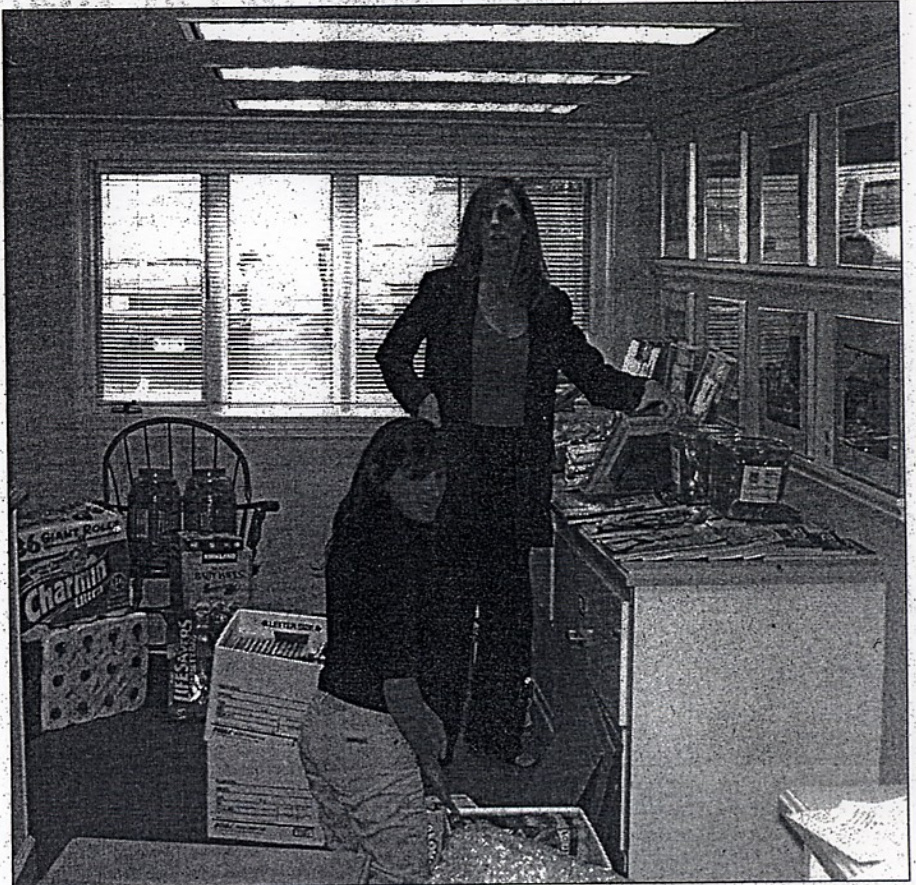
One of the company's employees is stationed in Bahrain.

"My father was an Air Force officer in the '60s," said Scott Hobbs, CEO of Hobbs, Inc., "and I was an Army tank officer in the early '90s. In addition, we have several employees who served and far more who have relatives who have served or are still serving. As a result, we felt that this would be a good way to show our appreciation to one of our own."

Holmes Harden, a Hobbs employee and life-long New Canaan resident, is a Marine officer who rejoined the Marine Reserves after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In January of this year, he left behind his duties as a project manager with Hobbs and joined the infantry unit he leads when it was activated and sent to Quantico on full active duty. After six months, the unit moved to Okinawa and on to Bahrain, where it is now stationed.

A few weeks ago, Hobbs, Inc., was reminded that Mr. Harden's birthday was coming up in early October and, at first, decided to send a card. After some consideration, Ian Hobbs, a New Canaan High School classmate of Holmes, and Hobbs' management requested that employees donate whatever they were comfortable with toward a care package that would be sent to Mr. Harden's unit. To encourage participation, the company offered to match their donations up to \$1,000.

Over the next week, nearly 60 Hobbs' employees donated a total of nearly \$1,200 to which the business added \$1,000. Hobbs' office manager, Irene Pagano, with the help of Donna Machado, then purchased a substantial quan-



CARE PACKAGES — Irene Pagano and Marion Baron of Hobbs, Inc., pack care packages for Marines stationed in Iraq. Hobbs employee Holmes Harden is among those serving in the Persian Gulf.

tity of goods to provide the Marines with a little extra pleasure. The goods included candy (not chocolate because that easily melts at 120 degrees), snacks, DVD movies, magazines, sporting goods, games, disposable cameras, writing materials, clean wipes and quality toilet paper.

People also chipped in to provide thank you notes to the

Marines. In addition to general birthday cards for Mr. Harden, people included notes to members of his platoon thanking them for their contribution.

Hobbs employee Mike Palmieri worked with Virginia Tate of the North Salem Elementary School to have all of the children send thank you notes to the Marines in the care package.

With the help of several Hobbs employees, these goods and letters were packed into five big boxes and sent overseas to arrive shortly after Mr. Harden's birthday.

In a press release, Hobbs, Inc., encouraged Americans to write e-mails or letters to troops overseas. More information can be found at anyservicemember.org/main.html.