On the Approach

Administrator’s Message

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division!

Over the past several months, it has been an active and exciting time for aviation in the Commonwealth. Last week, the Massachusetts Airport Management Association (MAMA) hosted their 39th Annual Conference at the Cape Codder Resort & Spa in Hyannis. The conference agenda was full of informative workshops and timely presentations by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), MassDOT, state/local legislative leaders, and industry professionals.

On the second day of the conference, MassDOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Richard A. Davey provided an update to the attendees regarding the latest efforts of the senior leadership at MassDOT. During his presentation, Secretary Davey shared with the group a state transportation bond bill proposal to the State Legislature that includes approximately $150M dedicated for the Aeronautics Division to address airport capital projects throughout the 36 public-use general aviation airports in the Commonwealth. This is an important step as the staff of Aeronautics Division continues to be focused on preserving and enhancing our statewide system of airports.

I would like to thank David Dinneen, Executive Director of MAMA, the MAMA Conference Committee and Board of Directors for a fantastic and fun-filled conference.

The Aeronautics Division’s mission is to promote aviation throughout the Commonwealth while establishing an efficient integrated airport system that will enhance airport safety, economic development, and environmental stewardship.
On the Approach

Volume 3, Issue 4

On Wednesday, November 7th, I had the honor and pleasure to be the Master of Ceremonies for the Partners in Transportation Veteran’s Day Luncheon at the State Transportation Building in Boston. It was a moving ceremony to recognize the dedicated service and sacrifices of our veterans who preserve our freedoms as Americans.

The Veteran’s Day program included a presentation from keynote speaker Vice Commander Colonel Samuel Hancock of the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base and special award presentations to Brittany Bergquist, founder of Cell Phones for Soldiers, and Stephen Cunniff, Director of Communications for the New England Center for Homeless Veterans.

Additionally, I am very proud of the fact that five of the ten Aeronautics Division staff members have served or currently serve in our Armed Forces. Please join me in thanking Denise Garcia, Tom Mahoney, Katie Servis, Drew Mihaley, and Kathleen Mahoney for their military service to our country.

On Saturday, October 27th, the staff of the Aeronautics Division and Secretary Davey were invited to Lawrence Municipal Airport to witness the flying demonstration of Terrafugia’s Transition. This roadable aircraft wooed the crowd as the Transition drove down the taxiway in automobile mode onto an aircraft parking apron and began its transformation into aircraft mode. Following the pre-flight check by the test pilot, Retired Air Force Colonel Phil Meteer, the Transition took off on Runway 14 and flew in the airport traffic pattern for nearly 30 minutes. The aircraft successfully landed on Runway 32 and taxied back to the aircraft parking apron. Congratulations to Carl Dietrich, Anna Mracek Dietrich, and Samuel Schweighart, founders of Terrafugia, for pursuing their dreams in developing innovative solutions to the challenges facing personal aviation.

Lastly, we hope you will be able to join us at our Aeronautics Division Holiday Party on Friday, December 7th from 12:00PM to 3:00PM at the Logan Office Center. Please have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your continued support of the MassDOT Aeronautics Division!

MassDOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Richard A. Davey joins members of the Aeronautics Division staff at the open house and flying demonstration of Terrafugia’s Transition.

Terrafugia’s Transition as it prepares for flight mode with the unfolding of its wings.

MassDOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Richard A. Davey joins members of the Aeronautics Division staff at the open house and flying demonstration of Terrafugia’s Transition.

Just Plane Folks - Featuring Representative Don Humason

By: Katie Servis (Airport Planner/Environmental Analyst - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

I have to admit that I was a bit nervous walking into the State House on the morning of my interview with Massachusetts State Representative, Don Humason (R - Westfield) for the “Just Plane Folks” section of our newsletter. I have never really spoken to a member of the state legislature on a one-on-one basis before and frankly, I was a bit anxious because I didn’t know what to expect. Not wanting to occupy too much of Representative Humason’s time and interfere with his busy schedule, I prepared a series of questions beforehand so that I could quickly conduct the interview, stay on task and on focus, and be on my way. However, as I entered the office I realized that my anxiety was unnecessary as were my concerns for time. Representative Humason and I stepped into a relaxed conversation like a chat amongst old friends. He was easygoing, a joy to talk to, and with an interesting discussion about aviation, we both easily got lost in conversation. We chatted about aviation cheerleaders (past and present), issues facing the aviation industry, and our own youthful memories of our introduction to the industry. Below highlights pieces of our conversation…

Question: Since becoming a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 2002, you have been a strong voice and advocate for aviation within the state. In fact, several bills have either been sponsored or co-sponsored by you including bills regarding aviation taxes; capital expenditure programs; and
safety, security and maintenance programs to name a few. Many of these bills demonstrate a passion and dedication to the enhancement of the aviation industry within the state of Massachusetts. How and why have you become such an advocate for aviation within the state?

Answer: I have always had an interest in aviation and with cheerleaders in the state such as Chris Willenborg and the late Arthur Allen who’s passion and spirit for the aviation industry is so strong and infectious, you cannot help but try to learn more about the field and its impact on the state. I have learned a tremendous amount from both individuals. They truly represented the “face of aviation” for me so when I had questions or just wanted to learn about a particular aspect of the industry, I could always turn to them for help.

Question: In 2005, you joined former State Representative Stephen Leduc (D-Marlboro) in forming the Massachusetts Legislative Aviation Caucus to be a legislative supporter for airports.

a. How has this group changed the face of aviation within the state?
b. Do you feel that the advocacy efforts of this group have yielded tangible results?
c. What changes would you make to the group?

Answer: First of all, do you know the history of the caucus? Well, it all started with the late Bob Stetson of Marlboro Airport, another cheerleader of the industry! Bob invited the former State Representative, Stephen Leduc (D-Marlboro), to the Marlboro Airport. Bob wanted to introduce Representative Leduc to the aviation industry and wanted him to understand the importance of general aviation (GA) to the state economy and to the overall transportation system. Bob’s passion for the industry led Representative Leduc to form the Aviation Caucus.

One day Steve and I were talking about aviation and Steve said, “There is an airport in your district right, well I am assembling a committee, the aviation caucus, and I want you to be the vice-chair “ and that is how I got involved.

Initially Representative Leduc and I reached out to other members in the Massachusetts Legislature that had airports in their districts and asked them to join the caucus. In later years, we invited legislative members who had businesses in their districts with an aviation theme. From there, the caucus grew and currently, the committee is approximately 60 - 70 members strong. The face of aviation now had a formidable voice.

Luckily for the state’s aviation industry, the caucus had already been established for several years when a bill that proposed to repeal the exemption of the state’s sales-and-use tax for aircraft and parts was presented. The aviation caucus members, along with airport managers and other aviation organizations showed tremendous leadership in protecting the tax exemption for the aviation community.

The establishment of the caucus and several victories for the aviation community truly changed how aviation is viewed by many leaders in the state. Through the help of the Massachusetts Airport Managers Association (MAMA), the caucus also taught airport managers how to help themselves and how to talk to and educate their representatives, town officials and airport neighbors about the economic benefits of the aviation industry. The caucus proved to be more than just a shield for airports. There are no changes that I would make to the caucus.

Question: You have a clear commitment and responsiveness to issues facing the aviation industry. With such a passion for the wellbeing of our industry I would assume that aviation has always been a part of your life.

a. Were you passionate about aviation as a child?
b. Do you have a family member with an aviation background?
c. Living in Westfield, did you spend a lot of time at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport?
d. Have you worked in the aviation industry?
e. Do you have your pilot’s license?

Answer: Well it is funny that you ask me this. I would have to say that as a child I was subconsciously passionate about aviation. As a kid, my parents used to take my sister and I to an ice cream shop near Westfield-Barnes Airport. We would buy a cone and sit and watch planes takeoff. Today it is a fond memory of mine and I cannot wait until I can do the same with my son.

As for family members with an aviation background, I think of my grandfather, who actually helped build Logan Airport. In the 1920’s, he was a dump truck operator driving a truck back and forth between the quarry and Logan Airport to construct the base layer for the new runways.

As a resident of Westfield, I find myself frequently visiting Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport. I bring friends to the airport all the time. In fact, my legislative colleagues and I kick off summer break at the airport restaurant where we can get out on the rooftop deck and watch both military and civilian aircraft takeoff. I also have made it a point to visit many other airports within the
state. One of my goals is to visit every public-use airport within the Commonwealth so that I can see the facility and meet the people that work there.

You asked if I have ever worked in the aviation industry and the answer is no but I would have liked to. I would also love to get my pilot’s license. My sister actually purchased me a gift that included three flying lessons from a company at Westfield-Barnes. I took the lessons and had a great time but have not continued due to other commitments and cost. As a private citizen there seems to be fewer opportunities to get your license and with rising fuel costs and the cost of renting a plane and instructor, this concerns me for future generations; how will we get our next generation of pilots?

**Question: Is being a public official your first love and aviation your second?**

**Answer:** I have a lot of loves but my first is for my wife and child, aviation may be a solid second. However, I only learned more about aviation because of my job as a representative. As a representative I was given the opportunity to meet the people that are the face of aviation within the state that helped me learn more about the industry and continually spark my interest.

As we began to wrap up our interview and say goodbye, I looked at my watch and realized that I had been speaking with the Representative for close to two hours! I never would have guessed I was there that long; time just flew and I easily could have spoken to him for much longer. My thoughts lead me back to my initial apprehension walking into the State House earlier that morning. I now realize that my preliminary anxiety was unnecessary. According to Representative Humason our state representatives love being invited to our places of business, our community gatherings, and YES, most definitely, our airports! So, get ready for a chat with your representative and remember, Representative Humason may be visiting your airport next!

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**Aeronautics on the Fly**

By: Katie Servis (Airport Planner/Environmental Analyst - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

Over the past several months the Aeronautics Division staff has been teaming with many of our Massachusetts airports and aviation stakeholders to promote aviation by attending various open houses and air shows throughout the Commonwealth. Since May of this year, our staff has been setting up the Aeronautics Division’s informational booth, handing out airport directories, and talking about the statewide airport system plan and aviation economic impact report to pilots, airport tenants, and the general public. Additionally, we brought along our trusty flight simulator to each event and invited aviation enthusiasts of all ages to test their skills!

The following photographs highlight these events, which were a joy and pleasure for all staff to attend.
Statewide Airport Pavement Management System Project Update
By: Kathleen Mahoney (Airport Engineer - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

With the current theme of this year’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meetings being “money is tight”, I am glad that a planning program will soon be available to help public-use airports within the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will soon be better equipped to prioritize pavement maintenance projects with data collected as part of the Statewide Airport Pavement Management System Program. The program will serve as a tool for all involved by identifying system pavement needs, shaping programming decisions for federal and state grant aid, and assisting airport sponsors in making informed planning decisions.

With the help of a generous grant from the FAA, MassDOT was able to develop this much needed pavement management program. A contract was awarded to Hoyle, Tanner, & Associates, Inc. to conduct a system-wide study to assess the relative condition of airfield pavements for all of our public-use airports. Two sub-consultants are also working on the project and include: Applied Pavement Technologies, Inc. (APTech) and Vaidya Consulting, Inc.

The first phase of the program, which is already in progress, includes gathered historic data for all airside pavements. The second phase involves teams of two visiting each airport to conduct a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) survey. The PCI survey involves walking over the pavement and visually identifying the type of distress present on sample sections of the pavements. The severity is calculated and the overall condition graded on a scale of 0-100; 100 being visually flawless and 0 being pavement failure. Airport Managers and staff are welcome to join the teams during all or part of their assessment.

After completion of both phases, the data collected will be entered into a database called MicroPAVER, which was developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The MicroPAVER database has the ability to perform detailed analysis of the data entered which will give each airport a tool to more efficiently manage their pavements as well as provide factual reports to build a better case for maintenance funding. A web-based “Interactive Data Exchange Application” will also be available for airports to easily obtain specific information about their pavements for presentation and reporting purposes.

If anyone would like more information on the project, or if you would like to see an example of another State’s interactive web-based pavement database, please e-mail me at kathleen.mahoney@state.ma.us.
Carbon Neutral Airport  
By: Katie Servis (Airport Planner/Environmental Analyst - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division has embarked upon an exciting new project with the help of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe). Volpe will support MassDOT Aeronautics Division to establish the first ever, carbon neutral airport in the United States. Volpe will work with MassDOT stakeholders, assess airport facilities, track greenhouse gases emissions, and create an implementation strategy at one (1) targeted airport within the state.

To maximize implementation funding, the airport selection criteria is only open to those airports eligible to receive Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sustainability/Voluntary Airport Low Emission Program (VALE) funding and will be done through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Of the 36 public-use airports (this excludes Logan, Hanscom and Worcester airports), only 5 fall under this category – Nantucket, Martha’s Vineyard, Hyannis, Provincetown, and New Bedford airports. These airports will have the opportunity to submit proposals for airport selection.

The project will be completed in phases. For the selected airport, Phase I will include identification of:

- Energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduce energy demand;
- Renewable energy sources that can be used to meet the remaining energy demand; and
- Reductions made through non-energy related GHG emission sources, such as transportation and refrigerant use.

Phase II will include implementation steps to achieve carbon neutrality at the selected airport. Additionally, the program will address airport operations under direct ownership and control of the airport sponsor including:

- Airfield and airport building energy consumption;
- Fuel use and technologies used in the sponsor’s vehicle fleet; and
- Various operating programs and practices.

Some airport functions will be excluded:

- The landing and take-off of aircraft;
- Trips to/from the airport by the air-traveling public; and
- Energy use of airport tenants.

The airport RFP, selection criteria, evaluation plan, and overall candidate airport selection will be accomplished by a Planning Advisory Group (PAG) that has been established for this project and includes a diverse panel as outlined in the table above right.

With 30 plus in attendance, the recently held project kickoff meeting on November 28, 2012 indicated a keen interest in the program. See the table above for the Phase I project schedule.
FAA Waypoint - Electronic Airport Layout Plans and Master Plans
By: Lisa Lesperance (Airport Planner, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) New England Region)

By now most of you have heard that Electronic Airport Layout Plans (ALPs) and Electronic Airport Master Plans (eAMPs) are coming. Though knowing what to expect is not quite the same as solving a murder; instead of “who, when, and where”, here is the “why, what, and how”.

Why?
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is required to provide highly accurate geospatial information about airfield infrastructure, particularly with respect to the aircraft movement area. FAA is also required by Executive Order 12906 (http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12906.pdf) to transform outdated, inconsistent data standards and utilize available technologies to enhance consistency and accuracy.

What?
The data is envisioned to be part of the overall Airports Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database, or Airports-GIS, a centralized web-based airport data storage database. The goal is to provide airports and FAA with a complete and secure GIS environment for ALPs that would reduce reporting and processing time for an airport change. Airports-GIS will help airports by providing standardized data to support airport construction, land-use planning, and environmental compliance. When the system is complete, one of the capabilities for an eALP user would be airport development scenario evaluation, which will enable the user to evaluate scenarios instantly. For instance, if an eALP user wanted to evaluate the effects of a potential runway realignment or a shift, all they would have to do is electronically move the runway and see.

How?
Right now FAA is rolling out Airports-GIS, meaning all safety-related project data is to comply with GIS standards. So what does this really mean? First of all, it is important to understand that safety-related project data in an oversimplified definition is anything that would be a change to the National Airspace System, like a change in runway threshold location. This information must be collected following Advisory Circular 150/5300-18B.

GIS implementation data, from work scope to final product, will go through the Airports-GIS database at https://airports-gis.faa.gov/public/. If you don’t have access to the system, you can request a User ID. There is free training (and some “not free” training), sample work scopes and reference material on this website too.

For Massachusetts, the transition to Airports-GIS is as follows:

- FY 2012 - Large Hub and Medium Hub Airports (BOS)
- FY 2013 – Small Hub Airports (none in MA)
- FY 2014 – Nonhub Airports (ACK, MVY, HYA, EWB, PVC)
- FY 2015 – Nonprimary Part 139 Airports with an ATCT (BAF, CEF)

For more information on Airports-GIS implementation, please read Program Guidance Letter (PGL) 12-11 which can be found at http://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/guidance_letters/media/PGL_12_11_eligibilityGIS.pdf. This PGL outlines eligibility for GIS implementation. The PGL is too large to put here, but everyone should be aware of the following special condition for GIS implementation data collected prior to “your” transi-
tion date. On page 2, Section A. BASIC ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE 2(b)(ii), it states...

The grant in which the data collection is to be included includes the following special condition: The sponsor recognizes, understands and agrees that they are undertaking data collection in advance of being required to do so, and before the FAA finalizes the data collection requirements through the Airports GIS Pilot Program. Therefore, there is a risk that portions of the data collection may have to be repeated at a later time if the requirements change. The costs of the repeated data collection may not be eligible for reimbursement.

eAMP
As if electronic layout plan data isn’t enough, keep in mind that eAMPS are on the horizon. FAA is currently in the beta testing phase for eAMPS. When this second phase of the pilot program is complete, FAA will publish updated/supplemental guidance then all systems will be “go”.

Welcome Titang Thompson Titang to the MassDOT Aeronautics Division Family
MassDOT Aeronautics Division welcomes the newest addition to our Aeronautics family
By: Katie Servis (Airport Planner/Environmental Analyst - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division is pleased to present to you the newest addition to the MassDOT Aeronautics Division family, Mr. Titang Thompson Titang!

Titang joined our team on October 9, 2012 but he is no stranger to MassDOT. Prior to joining the Aeronautics Division staff, Titang worked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles in 2004 as an Accountant II. In 2006, Titang transferred to the Executive Office of Transportation during the merge and has been working in the Fiscal Department. At the Aeronautics Division, Titang will be assisting Mike Thompson, our Manager of Administration and Finance, with budgeting and airport capital project voucher processing. He has been hired as an Accountant III for the Division.

Titang is originally from the central west African country of Cameroon, officially the Republic of Cameroon. He came to the United States (Pennsylvania) in 1982 and attended Clarion University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. In 1988, Titang moved to Boston and worked in sales for a few years until he accepted an accountant position with the state in 1990 (Waltham State College). It was not until 2004 that he came over to DOT.

Titang now lives in Lynn with his wife and their three children. He tries to get back to his native Cameroon annually if time allows.

We welcome Titang to his newest assignment and we are so excited that he is a part of our aviation family. If you wish to reach Titang, please do so at 617.412.3677 or Titang.Titang@state.ma.us. Welcome Titang!
The Fitchburg Pilots Association Helps Victims of Hurricane Sandy
By: Charley Valera (Past President, Board Member and Flyout Master of the Fitchburg Pilot’s Association)

On Friday, November 2, 2012, after reading an article in the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association’s (AOPA) ePilot online magazine about general aviation pilots helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy, I contacted AOPA to ask how the Fitchburg Pilots Association (FPA) could assist. AOPA put me in contact with AeroBridge, a National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) endorsed group of experienced aviation specialists who coordinate emergency aviation response during disasters. After speaking with AeroBridge, I formulated a quick plan and reached out to the FPA from Fitchburg Municipal Airport (KFIT) to recruit pilots for a mission to New York and New Jersey.

Our crew would depart Fitchburg on Sunday November 4. This gave us all day Saturday November 3 to gather donations. My plea for coats, blankets, bottled water, and pet supplies was posted on Facebook and on the homepages of the Mayors of Leominster and Fitchburg. From there it went viral! Approximately 100 people showed up on Saturday with a number of supplies that were in dire need for the victims of Sandy.

Approximately a dozen members of the association worked non-stop on Saturday sorting and shrink wrapping numerous items to be shipped out the following day. Each package was weighed, marked, and sorted by size for clean, dry and easy loading and unloading.

The crew met on Sunday morning at 7:00AM, packed each of the 16 planes prepared for the mission, and departed using “compassion flight” squawk codes, which would help us through the busy NY/NJ airspace. The special codes were provided by AeroBridge and through the help from retired Air Traffic Control (ATC) FPA member, Bob Adelizzi. We staggered departures and arrivals by minutes only.

As the first and last plane crossed paths over Long Island Sound, we rocked our wings in acknowledgement. Upon arrival at Republic Airport (KFRG) in Farmingdale Long Island we were greeted by a number of lineman who were very grateful and happy to see us. They unloaded our freight like we were jumbo airliners into a storage hangar until distribution to families in need later that afternoon. An additional flight was also made to Robert J. Miller Air Park (KMJX) in Toms River, NJ.

All went better than planned and somehow we were rewarded with tailwinds both ways. This was general aviation at its best! It really was a pleasure and honor to be able to help out. For more photos, please take a look at our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fitchburg-Pilots-

Photo Wrap - Pittsfield Municipal Airport
By: Katie Servis (Airport Planner/Environmental Analyst - MassDOT Aeronautics Division)

The runway project at Pittsfield Municipal Airport is moving to a close. Project completion is anticipated for late December 2012 with a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held in the spring of 2013. The results of the project will include the construction of Runway Safety Areas (RSAs) on both Runway 8 and Runway 26 ends; extension of the Runway 26 end by 790 feet; relocation of South Mountain Road to accommodate the extension and RSA development; vegetative obstruction removal; and replacement of an approach lighting system on the Runway 26 end.
### Upcoming Events

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| Dec 7 | MassDOT Aeronautics Division (12pm - 3pm) | **MassDOT Aeronautics Division**  
Please join the MassDOT Aeronautics Division at our Holiday gathering on Friday, December 7, 2012 from 12:00 to 3:00. The event will take place at our office, One Harborside Drive, Logan Office Center Suite 205N, East Boston, MA. Bring your appetite! Event Contact: Loraine.Bohannon@state.ma.us. |
| Dec 10 | Mansfield Municipal Airport (10:30am - 3pm) | **Toys for Tots**  
Once again, Mansfield Municipal Airport is collecting Toys for Tots! The Mansfield Rotary will be picking up the collection box on Monday December 10th. All toys should be unwrapped and please remember that older kids like to get something as well. The Rotary is also collecting goods for our Troops. They need things like:  

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<td>AA &amp; AAA Batteries</td>
<td>Trail Mix</td>
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<td>Baby Wipes</td>
<td>Energy Bars</td>
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<td>Body and Face Scrub</td>
<td>Sunscreens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hand Lotions</td>
<td>Lip Balm</td>
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<td>Soap, in the box</td>
<td>Paper, Pens and Envelopes</td>
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<td>Pop Tarts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kool-Aid packets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nuts (unsalted)</td>
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<td>Toothpaste</td>
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Troops love getting handwritten letters from home, so include one in the box if you can. Event Contact: Kelley Dinneen KelleyD@gmail.com.