

The Daily Mail

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OUR VIEW

Stiefel gets commendation for bringing relief to troops

When we think of our American soldiers in Iraq, the threat of danger is, of course, the first thing on our minds. Roadside bombs, mortar attacks, ambushes and suicide bombers are the most horrific aspects of daily life in the desert.

More prosaic, however, are the day-to-day challenges of health and comfort in a harsh environment.

Stiefel Laboratories in Oak Hill is playing a small but crucial part in helping deliver some comfort to American servicemen and women. The company, which has a global network of subsidiaries, donated 1,000 bottles of skin lotion to Army National Guard soldiers in Iraq.

The lotion will combat skin irritations, known as pruritis, caused by the arid Iraqi climate. Known as Sarna, the lotion is an over-the-counter product with camphor and menthol as active ingredients.

Stiefel spokesman Alan Penchansky was being modest when he described the donation as a good deed. The company's contribution seems commonplace at first glance, but it will make a big improvement to the daily comfort of the soldiers.

About 400 bottles of Sarna were distributed to the families of National Guard soldiers from south Florida where Stiefel's corporate headquarters are located in Coral Gables. The Sarna was donated to the families before the holidays for shipment in Christmas care packages.

Stiefel also shipped 600 bottles of Sarna to three New York Army National Guard armories. The armories then issued the bottles to families of troops serving in Iraq, where the climate is similar to the southwestern United States.

We salute Stiefel Laboratories for its generosity and its support of U.S. troops in Iraq.

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