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## **USPS KEEPS MAIL MOVING TO OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**

WASHINGTON – The Postal Service today outlined initiatives to handle the increase in military mail volume to Kuwait which has jumped from nearly 21,000 pounds per week in October to more than 750,000 pounds per week in March.

The Postal Service has chartered two 747 cargo jets to fly mail overseas to the Military's postal system. One flies six days a week from the east coast; the other flies three days a week from the west coast.

"This is an extremely challenging, yet gratifying mission," Vice President Network Operations Management Paul Vogel said, "but customers have to understand, because the troops are constantly on the move, this is very much a 'moving mailbox' situation. Together the Postal Service and the Military are making every effort to see that the mail gets delivered."

The Postal Service has a close connection to the Military. One in three of its 740,000 employee workforce has a military background. To date, more than 4,000 of its 12,500 employees who serve in the Reserves or National Guard have been called to active duty. Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that makes deliveries to about 140 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation.

The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$66 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 203 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.