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Veteran’s Day Tips for Military Packages, Cards and Letters *Large Priority Mail Flat Price Box Discount Proves Popular for APO/FPO Shipping*

WASHINGTON, DC — As Americans pay tribute to those who have served their country today, the U.S. Postal Service is asking friends and families to remember mailing dates and shipping options for sending packages, cards and letters to military members across the nation — or across the globe — for the upcoming holidays.

The Postal Service provides three different size and shape options at convenient flat-rate pricing, including the Large Priority Mail Flat Rate Box that provides a \$2 discount for APO/FPO destinations.

At nearly 800 cubic inches and measuring 12" x 12" x 5 ½", the box is 50 percent larger than other USPS flat-rate boxes. The price to ship anything that fits in the box is just \$10.95 to an APO/FPO destination, regardless of how much it weighs, up to 70 lbs. The price to other U.S. addresses is just \$12.95.

The Postal Service has shipped nearly 3 million Large Priority Mail Flat Rate box between March and August 2008, including almost half a million ordered for military APO/FPO addresses. The new box is shipping an average of almost 476,000 per month.

“Flat-rate shipping is the best value in the marketplace,” said Gary Reblin, vice president of Expedited Shipping. “Our new, bigger box gives customers even more room to send items across the country, with one flat price, regardless of how much they weigh or how far they’re going.”

The current flat-rate boxes, introduced in November 2004, give customers a single, predetermined rate regardless of the weight or delivery zone. Flat Rate Priority Mail boxes usage (excluding the new large box) grew 36 percent from 2007 to 2008. Total shipped since launched as a test product in 2004 is more than 54 million. The new, larger box extends the Postal Service’s line of successful flat-rate offerings, providing more choices for small businesses and consumers.

Customers can order them at usps.com/supplies, by calling 800-610-8734, or by picking them up in Post Offices nationwide.

Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of *America Supports You*, a Department of Defense program that connects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

All Postal Service Priority and Express Mail packages and envelopes are environmentally friendly, exceeding the highest standards for recyclability.

Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box Prices	
Domestic Shipping	\$12.95
APO/FPO Addresses	\$10.95
International Shipping*	
▪ Canada and Mexico	\$29.95

▪ Other Countries	\$49.95
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*20-pound weight limit

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, the Postal Service recommends that mail for service members be entered no later than the mailing dates listed below.

Mail addressed to military post offices overseas is subject to certain conditions or restrictions regarding content, preparation and handling. APO/FPO addresses generally require customs forms. To see a table of active APO and FPO addresses and mailing restrictions by individual APO/FPO ZIP Codes, go to pe.usps.com and click "Postal Bulletins" in the left column. Select the current issue and look for the heading "Overseas Military Mail."

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail® Military Service (EMMS) ^{1/}	First-Class Mail® Letters/Cards	Priority Mail®	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) ^{2/}	Space Available Mail (SAM) ^{3/}	Parcel Post®
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec 4	Dec 4	Dec 1	Nov 21	Nov 13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 28	Nov 13

1/ EMMS: Express Mail Military Service is available to selected military post offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to your APO/FPO of address.

2/ PAL: PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

3/ SAM: SAM parcels are paid at the Parcel Post postage rate with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

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For more information, customers may visit usps.com.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.