



5390-1 (DGPFSS/DMFS)

28 May 2009

Distribution List

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

1. This September, the Director General Personnel and Family Support Services will be sending a Christmas gift package to all Canadian Forces members serving on deployed operations around the world.
2. Since 1993, this activity, called Operation Santa Claus, has served up to 5,000 deployed Canadian Forces members at Christmas time. Last year over 4,000 Christmas gift packages were distributed to 19 locations. Canadian companies donate most of the gifts.
3. Included in each gift package is a letter/card from a child extending Christmas greetings and a supportive message. From feedback received from our deployed members, these letters are very much appreciated by those who are far from home at Christmas time.
4. In order to make this program a success, the Canadian/Military Family Resource Centres (C/MFRC) are requested to assist by obtaining the letters from the children. In the past, these letters have been written by children attending C/MFRC children's activities or by school children. C/MFRC staff have approached local public schools and coordinated their input. Normally, the children participating are up to 10 years in age.

5. The letters must be forwarded to reach the following address no later than 31 August 2009. *(We will miss date)*

Operation Santa Claus
25 Canadian Forces Supply Depot Bldg #6
South
6363 Notre Dame East
Montreal QC H1N 3V9
Attn: B. Lapierre
1-514-252-2777 ext 2508

*This is an ongoing operation so cards would not be sent Feb Aug 31, 2010
Send cards to Evelyn to be sent thru Shirley Family Resources.*

6. There they will be inserted in the packages for onward transmission to various sites in time for Christmas. It is requested that each C/MFRC stamp their return address on the back of the children's Christmas card/letter, as CF members often want to send greetings back. If further information is required Shirley Penny, at (613) 995-8779, can be contacted.

7. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile program.

Celine Thompson
Director Military Family Services
Director General Personnel and Family Support Services