



**United States Army
Civil Affairs and Psychological
Operations Command**

December 27, 2004

Nicholas Sarnelli
Old Turnpike School / Mrs. Waters Class
173 Old Turnpike Road
Califon, New Jersey 07830

Hi Nicholas:

My name is Martin Sierra and I am a US Army Sergeant with the 353rd Civil Affairs Command. I am currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq. My unit's home station is located in Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York which is not too far from you! I writing to let you know that I received the wonderful package you guys sent me. I can't tell you how happy we were to hear from you.

As a soldier defending our freedom thousands of miles away from home, the holidays are never quite the same. Although we prefer to be home with our love ones, it is your support and well wishes that give meaning to what we do. You see Nicholas, we are not the only heroes, you are also a hero because you are helping us fight and win this war against terrorism. For that I thank you and salute you.

Please let your teacher Mrs. Waters, your classmates, and the Cub Scout Pack 199 that we also thank them and appreciate their support.

I want you to know that we will not fail and we will make you and all Americans proud of our service. May God bless you and may God bless America.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Sierra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

SGT Martin Sierra
353rd Civil Affairs Command
APO AE 09342