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Relative of soldier encourages others to adopt an overseas military unit

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A Website makes it easy to find what the troops need and want.

By: Michelle Sherwood, KY3 News

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FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. -- Thousands of men and women serving overseas are using the World Wide Web to ask for help. One woman here took notice and wants others to do the same.

Men and women in the armed forces -- about 52,000 of them -- have used Anysoldier.com. Diane Eidson, an aunt of a soldier, was so impressed with it that she decided to take action on her own.

Eidson was online, looking for information on how to send a care package to her nephew, Daniel, who's serving overseas.

"In the process of doing that, I ran into this Website in my searching," said Eidson.

Anysoldier.com allows troops to tell their needs, their wants or their feelings. Eidson got hooked.

"I love to go in there and just read what the soldiers are doing," she said. "It makes you closer to what's going on over there.

Here's an excerpt.

"Every time new packages come, soldiers swarm my room so I can distribute the items and letters," wrote one soldier. "They always walk away with a smile on their face."

Eidson said she convinced her friends at work to help her.

"I came into the office talking about it and the girls said, 'Let's adopt a unit,' and that's kind of how it got started," she said.

It was easy for Eidson to convince her coworkers to adopt a unit because people who work at Fort Leonard Wood tend to have military on the mind.

"We are all very aware of what all these folks who go over there and do so much," said Eidson.

The five women in the office decided to adopt Eidson's nephew's entire unit. They credit anysoldier.com for

the idea and say it would be nice for others to do the same.

"I think everybody's got a person they know. I think everybody feels a connection," said Denise Sphar. "We can make their life easier while they're there representing our country."

Anysoldier.com provides places to send stuff, what to send and how to send items to troops. It has a list of service members. Clicking on a name brings up a letter from that person. The letter tells what that person needs or wants. That person is the representative for his or her unit and will pass on the gifts to the other troops.

Anysoldier.com

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