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Berks Group Donates Money to Protect Troops

Story posted on 2006-04-28 18:47:00

Far from home - there are troops in battle and what they're wearing on their heads can mean the difference between life and death.

As WFMZ's [Karin Mallett](#) shows us, money you *already* donated just might save a life.

\ REPORTER:

How much does a life cost?

In the case of life-saving helmets for soldiers - it's about 100 dollars.

Mark Meaders: 21:50

That's the kind of effect these helmets have.

Will it keep someone from getting killed? yes.

\ REPORTER:

Operation Helmet provides helmet upgrade kits to troops.

And this check for 20-thousand dollars will buy about 200 more.

Nats of check

\ REPORTER:

It's money leftover from Reading businessman "Big" John Ulrich's pretzel drive

After we did all our purchases of pretzels that we had in mind, we had money leftover and a pretty fair amount of money and i thought well let's continue to do something for our service personnel.

\ REPORTER:

Operation Helmet was started by Mark Meader's father - a retired Navy doctor- who received a call from his grandson who was just about to deploy to Iraq asking about the kits.

After checking them out and seeing the benefits- he sent one to Justin.

But Justin wouldn't wear it- not unless everyone in his company - about 100 marines - had one too.

8:13

The plan was to outfit 100 guys with these helmet upgrade kits- that was the whole plan.

Since then we have sent over 5500 of these helmet upgrade kits out to troops.

Standup: 31:48

The webbing inside the original standard issue helmet was designed back in 1934.

At the time- the biggest threat to soldiers was bullets- but modern day soldiers face not only bullets but bombs.

11:28

What we've done is we've taken the helmet and we've removed the old original webbing and we've put in a ballistic loading and support system.

Nats:14:43

\ REPORTER:

Operation Helmet says the removable ballistic pads absorb shock at a much greater rate than the original webbing system- it makes the helmet more stable, more comfortable and provides more protection.

And now money from Berks County will send them overseas.

In Reading, [Karin Mallett](#) 69 News Berks Edition.