

Serving Eastern Pennsylvania and Western New Jersey

HOME NEWS WEATHER BUSINESS SPORTS DATABANK **CALENDAR TRAFFIC** SKYCAMS JOB SITE **Travel Expert PROGRAMS EMAIL US** StormCenter Station INFO SITE MAP

Due to the fact that some scripts seen here are finished shortly before airtime, there may be misspellings and grammatical errors. They may also contain phonetic spellings of names and places. Some of the interviews and live segments may not be scripted.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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 doctorwho 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.