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You are here: [Homepage](#) > [Newsdesk](#) > Baby wipes to body armour: Texas cop helps US snipers

**HOME** 

**Newsdesk**

**NGO Latest**

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**Africa**

**Americas**

**Asia**

**Europe**

**Middle East**

**COUNTRY PROFILES**

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**TOPICS**

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**NGO Photos**

**Satellite Images**

**Interactive Map**

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## Baby wipes to body armour: Texas cop helps US snipers

15 Nov 2004 10:34:27 GMT

Source: Reuters

By Terry Friel

BAGHDAD, Nov 15 (Reuters) - Looking for a cause with a difference? Adopt a sniper. A Texas police SWAT officer is running a charity for frontline snipers in Iraq and Afghanistan, supplying everything from baby wipes to body armour.

The brainchild of Port Arthur detective and police sniper Brian Sain, Adopt a Sniper ([www.adoptasniper.org](http://www.adoptasniper.org)) has raised thousands of dollars in cash and gear to supplement the kit of sharp shooters in up to 75 U.S. combat platoons.

"Being aware that police snipers often face the same logistical problems as their military counterparts, I assumed correctly that they were doing without things they needed to get their jobs done," Sain said.

He contacted U.S. military sniper schools and began sending supplies, tailored to the needs of each sniper, in January.

"People from every walk of life are helping. Once the word got out that a group of policemen was helping the military and inviting civilian assistance, it really took off," he said.

Some U.S. soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan spend their own money to supplement equipment issued by the military.

"Snipers need gear that is different than the average airman, marine, sailor, or soldier," Sain told Reuters via e-mail. "When the snipers desperately need mission specific gear ... we just try and fill that void."

From the frontlines, snipers are writing to say thanks.

"Your package arrived ... and was met with great fanfare," said a Marine platoon commander from Afghanistan.

"The mini bins (binoculars) will help lighten our load as we continue to spend most of the time chasing the Taliban between 7,000-10,000 feet (2,100-3,050 metres)."

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## PROTEIN BARS, LUBRICANT

He went on to ask for supplies of protein bars, Gatorade and dry cleaning lubricants for guns.

Sergeant John, who has been in the army for four-and-a-half years, wrote from Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, where rebels took over some districts this week.

"I am always trying to improve my knowledge as a sniper and improve my lethality," he said. "I am proud to be a sniper when I see fellow snipers in the community are back home looking out for us snipers overseas fighting this horrible war on terrorism."

Some write of having to spend their own money buying gear, and of the lack of quality ammunition.

"I hate asking for stuff," said one anonymous soldier seeking small binoculars and spotting scopes, "but if you have the means, we can damn sure put them to good use.

"Miscellaneous gear and morale type stuff is of course always welcome. My platoon has 16 guys from all over. Some eat kimchi (Korean national dish), some chew Redman (tobacco).

"I can't tell you how much this means to all of us."

Adopt a Sniper fills a need for civilians who want to help soldiers in combat but don't know how to, Sain said.

"Unfortunately, due to the enormity of the commitment in Iraq and Afghanistan, many American snipers are having to spend their own money and have their families try and procure gear and get it to them," Sain said.

Supplies are sent directly to individual soldiers and Adopt a Sniper spends as much on shipping as it does on supplies.

"We have been sending everything from baby wipes to body armour and everything in between. Most of the items are sniper specific such as laser rangefinders ... wind metres, rifle scopes, weapons maintenance gear, you name it," Sain said.

"www.adoptasniper.org has become a full time secondary job for us," he said.

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