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Sergeant surprises sixth-graders with letter, gifts, certificates of appreciation

By: Marie Martin - Texarkana Gazette - Published: 01/11/2008

College Hill Middle School students were surprised to receive a package from Sgt. 1st Class Gary McWilliams, who is stationed in Kuwait.

The students have been corresponding with "Sergeant Mack" since the beginning of the school year.

Melissa Estes' sixth-grade class visited the AnySoldier.com Website to contact McWilliams, initiating the correspondence. The students sent McWilliams care packages, pictures of classroom activities and cards. They also e-mailed him and asked questions about his job in the Army. The Internet has made it possible for Estes' students to see pictures of Kuwait and the military. The assignment has taught students about the soldiers and their living conditions, including the climate, shelter, gear and equipment, along with how they receive supplies from home.

McWilliams sent U.S. Army caps and certificates of appreciation for each student. He also sent an American flag that flew over Kuwait on Dec. 7.

In a letter to the class, McWilliams wrote he hopes to visit the students at College Hill Middle School in the future.

He is a part of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment of the Army



Submitted photo Sixth-grade students and teachers from College Hill Middle School show off the articles sent to them by U. S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary McWilliams.

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