

Dear Becky and Steve,

I want to thank you for the card and offer to add our unit to your Military Ministry Team at Church. We would be most gracious recipients of support from your congregation. I hope you realize just how much our fellow American's support means to us. I will be providing updates at the following link if you would like to know of the happenings at the 14<sup>th</sup> CSH:

<http://AnySoldier.com/WhereToSend/DynamicAdmin.cfm?SEQNO=28942&popup=no>

I thought I'd share a bit about myself, my family and our mission here. My name is Major Stephanie Buffett and I am an Air Force Nurse Corps Officer. I have been a nurse for over 20 years and have been an Air Force Officer for more than 10 years. I grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana and taught nursing students before joining the military. I am married to a wonderful man (Middle School Guidance Counselor turned Domestic god) and have four awesome children attending Newsome High and Randall Middle Schools in Lithia, Florida. My husband, children, and I are Soccer Referees/Players and all are outdoor enthusiasts. We have a Golden Retriever, Peg, and four Leopard Geckos.

My family and I have moved around a bit with the military. We left Indianapolis, where I grew up, heading for Arkansas, Germany, Washington DC (Bethesda) and now Florida. For the last three years I have been working at Headquarters Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, in Tampa, Florida as an International Health Specialist. My area of focus has been medical military exchanges with countries in South and Central Asia. These countries include Afghanistan, Pakistan, and five former Soviet States: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The unit I am working with is the US Military Combat Support Hospital on Bagram Air Field. We care for trauma patients (US, Afghan, and Coalition Military, Afghan Police) and provide other medical care to US military and US civilians. Additionally, we do provide medical care to Afghan civilians who are severely injured if there is a threat to their life, the possibility of losing an arm or leg or losing their eyesight. Often the Afghan patients remain until they are almost completely healed due to the lack of medical care in the remote villages they come from. We were supposed to move to a new hospital, but there are some structural delay and we will be in the plywood structure for a bit longer.

Many of the nurses and medical support staff are assigned here for a full year. Some physicians are here for 6 months and some for 12 months. I am currently in Afghanistan for a six month deployment to serve as the Trauma Coordinator working to improve care given to trauma patients from the point of injury all the way back to the United States. This is my sixth assignment in Afghanistan this year and definitely the longest!

Our weather here is hot and dry in the summer, and cold and snowy in the winter. We have had our first snow several weeks ago, so it has been pretty cold for a while. Cold enough for the pipes at the hospital to freeze

On behalf of all the men and women at the 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital in Afghanistan, I want to wish you and your community a peaceful Holiday Season and thank you for remembering with us.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie

Stephanie Buffett, Major, USAF, NC, MSN, MPH, IHS  
Afghanistan Trauma Coordinator/Joint Theater Trauma System  
14th CSH - Camp Lacy/EMT  
Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, APO AE 09354

